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Something to smile about

Dedicated medical team gives former corpsman renewed lease on life

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Dustin Kirby, a former Navy corpsman grievously wounded by a sniper's bullet to the jaw in 2006, holds his new set of customized teeth. Kirby is scheduled to share his recovery story at New York's Fleet Week 2019.

Courtesy of Northwell Health

ANALYSIS

Kim, Trump say door remains open for diplomacy

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea's leader and President Donald Trump said during the weekend that the door remains open for diplomacy but gave no hints about how the impasse over nuclear weapons could be resolved.

Kim Jong Un, newly christened at home as the supreme representative of all the Korean people, said Friday that he is open to a

third summit with Trump despite the abrupt breakdown of their previous meeting in Vietnam.

He warned continued deadlock risked reviving tensions and set an end-of-year deadline for the U.S. to offer a mutually accept-

able approach to negotiations.

The Trump administration has said the Feb. 27-28 Hanoi summit ended without agreement because the North made excessive demands for relief from economic sanctions in exchange for limited

disarmament measures.

"As wind is bound to bring waves, the U.S. open hostile policy toward (North Korea) will naturally bring our corresponding acts," Kim said, according

SEE DIPLOMACY ON PAGE 6

'As wind is bound to bring waves, the U.S. open hostile policy toward (North Korea) will naturally bring our corresponding acts.'

Kim Jong Un

North Korean leader, according to the state-run Korean Central News Agency

INSIDE

Deep chill in US-Russia relations stirs worry about armed conflict
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VETERANS

3 vets in 5 days die by suicide at VA facilities

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Three suicides occurred during a five-day period on Department of Veterans Affairs properties, prompting reaction last week from Capitol Hill.

Two veterans died by suicide in Georgia, one on April 5 at a parking garage at the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center in Dublin and the other April 6 outside the main entrance to the Atlanta VA Medical Center in Decatur, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported.

On Tuesday, a veteran shot himself in the waiting room at a VA clinic in Austin, Texas, according to local media.

"Those deaths did not go by me without noticing them, nor has it gone by me that we have a job to do," Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., said Wednesday during a Sen-

'Every new instance of veteran suicide showcases a barrier to access.'

Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif.
chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

ate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing.

Though the recent suicides weren't the intended subject of the hearing, multiple senators asked VA officials on Wednesday about them.

Richard Stone, executive in charge of the Veterans Health Administration, said there have been more than 260 suicide attempts on VA property, 240 of which were interrupted and prevented.

According to a Washington Post report, 19 suicides occurred on VA property between October

2017 and November 2018.

"Every one of these is a gut-wrenching experience for our 24,000 mental health providers and all of us that work for VA," Stone said.

In response to reports of the three suicides, Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, said he would schedule a hearing on the issue later this month.

"Every new instance of veteran suicide showcases a barrier to access, but with three incidents on VA property in just five days, and six this year alone, it's critical we

do more to stop this epidemic," Takano said in a statement. "I have called for a full committee hearing ... to hear from VA about the recent tragedies and spark a larger discussion about what actions we can take together as a nation."

According to the latest VA data, 20 veterans died by suicide every day. Of those deaths, 14 are not receiving VA health care.

Suicide among veterans continues to be higher than among the rest of the population, and younger veterans are particularly at risk. VA data released in September showed the rate of suicide among veterans ages 18 to 34 had significantly increased.

The VA hasn't identified the veterans who died by suicide in Georgia or described the circumstances of the deaths. In Austin, a still-identified veteran shot himself in front of hundreds of

people in the waiting room, according to a local media report. Weapons are prohibited in VA clinics, but the Austin facility doesn't have metal detectors.

Stone told senators Wednesday that veteran suicide was a societal problem that needed a nationwide approach. He noted an executive order that President Donald Trump signed in March creating a Cabinet-level task force that he promised would "mobilize every level of American society" to address veteran suicide. VA Secretary Robert Wilkie was selected to lead it.

"I wish it was as simple as me saying I could do more patrols in a parking lot that would stop this epidemic," Stone said. "Where we as a community and society have failed that veteran is a very complex answer."

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Employee at Indianapolis VA reassigned after medical mix-up

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs has reassigned an employee after whistleblower complaints outed delays and miscommunications at an Indiana facility that left a veteran untreated, leading to the amputation of his leg.

Another employee would have been fired but retired before the VA could take action, according to Peter Scovill, spokesman for the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis.

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel, an independent agency that protects whistleblowers, sent a letter to President Donald Trump last week with its findings about the incident at the medical center. Following up on a complaint from three whistleblowers, the special counsel discovered a policy change at the hospital in 2017 led to "significant delays in care and harm to veterans."

The amputation was a direct result of the delays, the agency reported.

Scovill said Thursday in a statement that VA leaders were

in close contact with the veteran and "will be apologizing and advising them of their options moving forward."

The Office of Special Counsel substantiated whistleblower allegations that leaders within the VA social work service in Indianapolis directed social workers to stop entering home health care consults into a computerized patient record system. The lack of planning, communication and training with the change led to home visits not being properly logged, the special counsel found.

Because of a scheduling mix-

up, one veteran didn't receive the help that he needed in June 2017 to redress a foot abscess. The wound became infected and eventually led to a below-the-knee amputation, Special Counsel Henry Kerner wrote.

Scovill said Thursday that the assistant chief of social work was removed from that position and assigned to another job with less responsibility. The VA investigated the chief of social work at the time, but the person retired before the VA could fire them.

The hospital did not name the

employees.

Since the investigation ended, the Indianapolis VA updated its procedures to allow social workers to enter information into the patient record system. It also has trained all key staff members, the special counsel said.

Kerner wrote to Trump that he commended the VA for taking steps to prevent future problems but was "nonetheless distressed that such a situation occurred in the first place."

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PACIFIC

Police: US sailor killed woman, self on Okinawa

By AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CHATAN, Okinawa — A U.S. sailor fatally stabbed a Japanese woman and then killed himself on Okinawa, Japanese officials said.

The two were found dead Saturday morning inside a six-story apartment building in the Kuwae district of Chatan, according to

an Okinawa prefectural police spokesman.

The woman's child was present when the incident occurred and called a relative, who then called police at 7:26 a.m., the spokesman said.

The sailor, 31, whose identity has not been released, was attached to the III Marine Division,

according to the III Marine Expeditionary Force.

The sailor and the woman, who was in her 40s, were apparently in a relationship, the Okinawa police spokesman said.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service is supporting the Okinawa police investigation, said III MEF spokesman 1st Lt.

David Mancilla. "We are aware of an incident resulting in the death of an apparent U.S. Navy Sailor with III Marine Division and a resident of Okinawa," he said in an email. "This is an absolute tragedy, and we are fully committed to supporting the investigation into the incident."

Japanese Vice Minister of For-

eign Affairs Takeo Akiba telephoned U.S. Ambassador to Japan William Hagerty, asking for cooperation with the investigation and efforts to prevent a recurrence. He expressed "extreme regrets," the Foreign Ministry said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Matthew M. Burke and The Associated Press contributed to this report. ichihasi.aya@stripes.com

S. Koreans get rare peek inside US base expected to become a Seoul park

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea — Shin Bong-nan has lived near this sprawling U.S. military base for 30 of her 73 years but never knew of the historical riches hidden behind the concertina-lined concrete walls.

"It feels like another country," she said Tuesday as she joined dozens of other South Koreans on a bus tour of the Army garrison, which is expected to become Seoul's version of Central Park after the Americans finally turn over the keys.

The tours, which began late last year, have given many South Koreans their first chance to step inside Yongsan, which is spread over some 630 acres in one of the trendiest neighborhoods of Seoul.

The base has been off-limits to the public since it was first occupied by the Japanese in 1906, with the exception of South Korean employees and others who receive special permission.

The Americans moved in after World War II and built it up to offer all the trappings of home — including schools, a hospital, grocery stores and a golf driving range.

Meanwhile, the garrison that was originally on the outskirts of the city has been engulfed by high-rises as a burgeoning Asian metropolis rose from the ashes of the 1950-53 Korean War.

But the military moved its headquarters to a newly expanded Camp Humphreys, about 55 miles south of Seoul, last year as part of a frequently delayed relocation plan that was signed in 2004.

That has prompted a steady closing of facilities, although 8,000 people are still based here.

The garrison is planning to largely vacate the property by the summer of 2020 as it begins the transition process, although no handover date has been set, according to the public affairs office.

"I couldn't ever imagine that we would ever be able to see this place," said Park Young-mi, who was chosen by lottery to join the tour. "I hope that now it becomes

a park so more people can come and see our own history."

Eager to reclaim what has become prime property, South Korea's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transportation is overseeing the park's development.

Kwon Hyuck-jin, the ministry's director-general for urban policy, said the plan is to preserve buildings with historical value and demolish the rest.

Of the 975 buildings, 110 were built in the Japanese colonial era, he said, adding that the government will solicit public opinion before finalizing details.

"I see a very promising future for our country to provide an excellent national park here for the citizens of Seoul and other cities as well," Kwon said. "But it will take a very, very long time."

Park Young-mi
South Korean tourist at Yongsan Garrison

Authorities also will need to address any environmental problems as activist groups have raised concerns about oil leaks and other issues over the years.

The biggest surprise for many was to discover that the base is full of historical sites ranging from ancient funerary statues to guard posts and other buildings built by the Japanese.

The first stop of the tour was a red brick building that housed the Japanese army stockade, which was built in 1909, according to a plaque.

It's pockmarked with bullet holes from the subsequent Korean War.

Shi said the complex was a grim reminder of the brutal Japanese occupation that began a ri-



PHOTOS BY MATT KEELER/Stars and Stripes

South Koreans take time to appreciate the cherry blossoms during a tour inside Yongsan Garrison, South Korea, on Tuesday.



Left: Visitors take a selfie outside the gates of a historic Japanese military stockade located inside Yongsan. Right: South Koreans tour a Japanese pedestrian bridge at the base.



valry the two nations have yet to overcome.

"I was so sad and felt brokenhearted when I saw it," she said. "The prison made a lasting impression on me, so I understand more why our people don't like Japan."

Other sights included the so-called White House, which used to be home to U.S. Forces Korea and is still headquarters for the U.S.-led Combined Forces Command.

A stone bridge crosses the Mancho stream, which used to run freely through the city but has been covered with concrete everywhere else but the base.

Kim Hee-jung, 35, a teacher at the nearby Sookmyung Women's

University, addressed concerns that private developers may try to grab the property.

"Rather than making an apartment complex, I want it to be turned into a park that we can share together, a place to share," she said.

Min Woon-ki, 71, a South Korean veteran, said he served with American soldiers in the late 1960s and was enjoying a glimpse of his old stomping grounds.

As the bus drove past the hospital, he recalled one of his comrades who was wounded and taken there to be treated.

"This place used to be crowded with American soldiers, but now they're mostly gone so it feels

empty," he said.

"The park is the best idea for developing this area. It would be bad to let private developers take it over so it can't be enjoyed by the public."

The cherry blossom trees that line both sides of 1st Corps Blvd., one of the main roads on post, provide a vivid example of the park it may become.

"The Japanese army used this road during big maneuvers and events, so they planted the cherry blossoms tree because it's their national flower," said Kim Chun-soo, a local historian who served as the tour guide.

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MILITARY

Coast Guard looks to honor USS Tampa crew

By ROSE L. THAYER

Stars and Stripes

Anna Bonaparte was 4 years old when her father James Wilkie died on board the USS Tampa on Sept. 26, 1918. Though she didn't have many memories of her father, she constantly spoke about him and his service in the Coast Guard, said her son, Wallace Bonaparte.

Next month, Bonaparte, a former Army captain, may travel from his home in Charleston, S.C., to Washington, D.C., to receive a Purple Heart in honor of his grandfather as part of an initiative to recognize the 115 U.S. servicemembers who died more than 100 years ago on board the ship.

Anna Bonaparte died in 2012, and Wallace can only imagine how proud she would have been to see her father receive a medal for his service.

"Being ex-military, I do know that it is an honor to be a recipient and it is an exceptional honor," said the 77-year-old Vietnam War veteran.

Wilkie was a 29-year-old cook on the Tampa, a Coast Guard cutter, when a German submarine sank it off the coast of England during the final months of World War I. All 131 men on board died. The event was the single largest loss of life for the service branch during World War I, and accounted for more than half of all Coast Guard deaths during the war.

A long journey

The Purple Heart was extended to the Coast Guard in 1942, and 10 years later, it became possible for the medal to be awarded retroactively for actions after April 5, 1917.

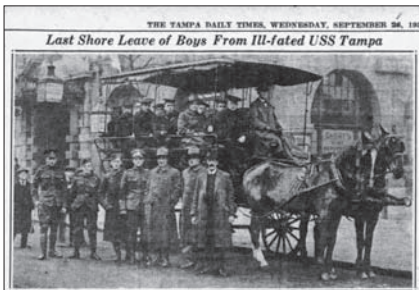
However, it wasn't until 1999 that efforts began to have the medal awarded to the 111 Coast Guard members and four Navy sailors on board the Tampa, said Nora Chidlow, an archivist with the Coast Guard. Other people on the Tampa included British sailors and civilians.

James C. Bunch, a retired Coast Guard master chief petty officer, made the recommendation and then-commandant Adm. James M. Loy approved it. Chidlow said she is uncertain why the recommendation was made at that time.



Photos courtesy of the U.S. Coast Guard

Members of the USS Tampa's crew are shown sometime between 1913 and 1915. On Sept. 26, 1918, a German submarine sank the ship, killing all 131 men on board. There is an initiative to recognize the U.S. servicemembers who perished with Purple Hearts.



This photo, published in the Tampa (Fla.) Daily Times on Sept. 26, 1934, shows the Tampa's crew seated in a wagon in London on their last shore leave before the ship was sunk.

Medals were presented to the families of three crewmembers during a ceremony held in 1999 on Veterans Day at the Coast Guard's World War I memorial in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

"The internet was still in its infancy," she said of the difficulty in finding families 20 years ago. "It is now so much easier to locate descendants with a few clicks."

Since that time, some ceremonies have taken place to pres-

ent medals as descendants have been identified, but there are 84 remaining medals to distribute. The Coast Guard hopes to present as many as possible during a ceremony May 24.

Technology advances coupled with the 100th anniversary of the Tampa's sinking helped her get support from the Coast Guard for a big push to find more family members of the ship's crew, Chidlow said.

"It didn't become real until I

started locating crew photos and showing them to people," she said.

Chidlow has spearheaded much of this work and leads teams of volunteers that include Coast Guard members, auxiliary members and professional genealogists who scour online archives and ancestry databases for descendants.

"I am blown away by what they find, far more than I was able to before the first team stepped in," she said.

"One interesting outcome has been the number of descendants who had no idea about their ancestor's service on the Tampa, I'd say about half of who has been contacted. Almost all are willing to accept the Purple Heart on behalf of their ancestor."

An ocean escort

Built in 1912 and originally named the USS Miami, the Tampa was initially built for hurricane duty in Florida, Chidlow said.

It transitioned to ice patrol duty in the North Atlantic Ocean following the creation of the International Ice Patrol in 1914.

The ship was renamed the USS Tampa in 1916 in honor of its homeport. The next year, the ship was one of six Coast Guard cut-

ters assigned overseas missions in World War I and the only one not to return home, Chidlow said.

The Tampa sailed 18 missions as an ocean escort for convoys of merchant ships, and earned a pennant for outstanding work on Sept. 16, 1918.

More than a week later, while escorting a convoy of 32 merchant vessels from Catalan Bay, Gibraltar, to Liverpool, England, the Tampa sailed ahead of its convoy and was hit by a torpedo about 8:15 p.m., Robert Pendleton, a military historian, researcher and volunteer for the Tampa Purple Heart initiative based in Florida, wrote in his manuscript of the Tampa's history. The ship sank in less than three minutes near the Welsh port of Milford Haven.

During the upcoming May 24 ceremony, the commandant of the Coast Guard is expected to present the Purple Hearts to family members at Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, Chidlow said. Descendants can also choose a ceremony at a suitable location in their local area, such as a Coast Guard station or an American Legion or Veterans of Foreign Wars post.

A dream fulfilled

Bonaparte and his wife, Joan, were told of Wilkie's eligibility a couple of years ago by another family of a Tampa crewmember, but they never knew what to do to get the medal. The Coast Guard contacted them earlier this year.

They chose to participate in the D.C. ceremony because they also plan to visit the Coast Guard's World War I memorial in Arlington.

"This is a dream fulfilled for his mom," Joan Bonaparte said. "I'm enormously proud for my husband as well. He is very military, and this means a lot to him as well. It's quite an honor for us."

Anyone who believes they are a descendant of one of the men aboard the Tampa should contact Chidlow for information on how to apply for the Purple Heart. Her email is Nora.L.Chidlow@uscg.mil. A list of the 111 Coast Guard members and four Navy sailors who died on board is at www.history.uscg.mil/tampa/.

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Fort Bliss soldier arrested in death of wife, also a soldier

By ROSE L. THAYER

Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — A Fort Bliss soldier died April 6 and her husband, also a soldier, is in custody as a suspect in her death, base officials confirmed Friday.

Sgt. Amy Colbert, 28, died in an on-post incident on April 6, said Maj. Allie Payne, a spokeswoman for the 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, Texas. Colbert's husband, Sgt. Lance Colbert, 29, is the subject of an ongoing criminal investigation into

her death and is in military custody.

Special Agents from the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command are investigating the death and all circumstances surrounding the incident.

Payne declined to provide further information about what took place or Amy Colbert's cause of death to protect the integrity of the investigation.

Amy Colbert, who was posthumously promoted to staff sergeant, served as a chemical equipment repairer with the 504th Quartermaster Company, 142nd

Combat Sustainment Support Battalion in the 1st Armored Division Sustainment Brigade.

On March 31, Amy Colbert returned from deployment to Kuwait, according to her service record.

She enlisted in February 2011 as a heavy vehicle driver and was previously deployed to Afghanistan.

"On behalf of the 1st Armored Division Sustainment Brigade Commander, our thoughts and prayers go out to both the family and the sustainment brigade at this

difficult time," Payne said. "The brigade will continue to provide all necessary services to both the family and soldiers who knew the deceased."

Lance Colbert is a heavy vehicle driver assigned to 377th Transportation Company, also part of the 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, according to his service record. He enlisted in August 2012 and has served one tour to Afghanistan.

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MILITARY

Survivors, 'Side by Side'

Marine combat medic almost killed by sniper in Iraq to take center stage, tell his story at NYC Fleet Week event

BY MICHAEL S. DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

TWENTY-THREE years ago, an Iraqi sniper's bullet almost ended Dustin Kirby's life.

As a Navy petty officer third class and a corpsman embedded with Marine infantrymen, he was tasked with keeping warfighters healthy during one of the bloodiest years of the Iraq War.

Kirby was on a rooftop at Outpost Omar, near Fallujah, during a routine personnel change when he was shot by a sniper.

The bullet tore through his jaw, taking seven of his teeth and fracturing his jawbone and part of his skull. That moment triggered a decade of constant agony and alcohol use that left the combat medic hopeless.

Thanks to his own tenacity, a mother's undying love and a team of dedicated doctors, he's well on his way to recovery.

Kirby will share his story of recovery in May at a special concert event for servicemembers and veterans held in New York during Fleet Week 2019. The Georgia native plans to talk about how a team of doctors freed him from a prison of pain and, quite literally, gave him back his smile.

What he left behind

Kirby had deployed with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, as part of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit in 2005 — which he said was relatively uneventful. His second trip downrange with the battalion a year later was just the opposite.

The unit arrived in Iraq in July and had its first casualty by August. Lance Cpl. James Hirston was shot and killed by sniper fire in the town of Karma, near Fallujah. Not long afterward, the truck Kirby was riding in was hit by an improvised explosive device. Kirby survived but was ordered to take a week off.

"That was worse than getting blown up," Kirby said. He didn't want to leave his Marines behind.

On Oct. 30, 2006, during a patrol in Karma, a close friend and former roommate of Kirby was shot in the head as he manned the turret of a vehicle. Lance Cpl. Colin Smith was hit by a 7.62 mm round, according to an account covered in The New York Times.

"It was, realistically, the most grievous injury I treated," Kirby said.

Smith was in such bad shape that Kirby questioned how much his treatment was going to help, if at all. "What am I really saving here — what's his life going to be like?" Kirby asked himself.

Smith is alive today largely because of Kirby's battlefield triage

and now lives with his mother, Melissa Smith, in Ohio.

"He did exactly what he needed to do," Melissa Smith said in a phone interview. "Colin's life has drastically changed, but he ... Her voice trailed off, searching for the right word. Colin Smith, also on the phone, found it.

"Survived," he said.

While still on the road to recovery — Smith has had to relearn how to walk, communicate and live again — he is well enough now to have gone on a recent Colorado ski trip.

Just a few weeks after Smith was hit, Kirby — known simply as "Doc" to his fellow Marines, as many corpsmen are — was shot on Christmas Day.

'We're going to shine a light on a good story to bring hope to those who don't have hope ... to help them in their hour of need.'

Dustin Kirby
former Marine
combat medic

After the bullet tore through his face, the 22-year-old corpsman refused to allow his Marines to carry him to medevac. Finding himself unable to breathe due to the mangled mass of flesh, bone and teeth, Kirby performed an emergency tracheotomy on himself, slicing open his neck with the tip of a K-Bar knife to open an airway.

That bullet effectively ended Kirby's career. Until he was medically separated in 2012, Kirby's military service was marked by procedures — 32 in all — that left him in constant pain and a 14-inch metal plate holding his jaw together.

"They felt like they had done all that they could," Kirby said of his doctors.

But their best wasn't enough to give the battlefield medic his life back. Pain, he said, was his constant companion.

Failures of VA system

After his release, Kirby's care was largely in the hands of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Communication between the string of doctors he saw was poor, he said, and they were content to fix his jaw bit by bit.

Kirby remained in immense pain and turned to alcohol to self-medicate. Constant pain, the lack of attention from the VA and alcohol use led Kirby to lose hope.

"Anytime I really needed help, I couldn't get it," he said. "I thought, I was going to be in that terrible spot, feeling that pain all

the time, watching my body slowly fall apart forever."

The VA was so backlogged that there were long times between his appointments. At one point, Kirby said, he was told an emergency extraction for an infected tooth would take nine months to schedule.

Kirby couldn't wait that long, so he took two shots of liquor and pulled his own tooth out with a multitool. The first tooth was the wrong one, he said, so he yanked out the second tooth days later.

When Kirby's mother, Gail Kirby, heard about his do-it-yourself dental surgery, she got more involved in his care.

"She said, 'I'm going to figure this out. I'm going to be the mom and pull you out of this mess,'" Kirby said.

Doctors who cared

Years earlier, Kirby and his mother had been at an event during which well-wishers offered their services to help the former petty officer. Kirby brushed them off, thinking they were simply being polite.

After the tooth-pulling incident, his mother reached out to one of them through email with a simple message: "My son needs your help."

It took just minutes for a reply to come back. Dr. Spero Theodorou, a New York plastic surgeon, sent a follow-up reply: "We got this."

What followed was a series of consultations in New York that didn't seem much different than previous visits with specialists. Nothing could be done, he was told, until the last of the appointments, which involved two doctors from Lenox Hill Hospital, part of the extensive Northwell Health network.

Dr. Lawrence Brecht and Dr. David Hirsch, director of maxillofacial surgery at Lenox Hill, were so confident that for the first time in a long time, Kirby began to hope something could be done. "Everything changed in that moment," he said.

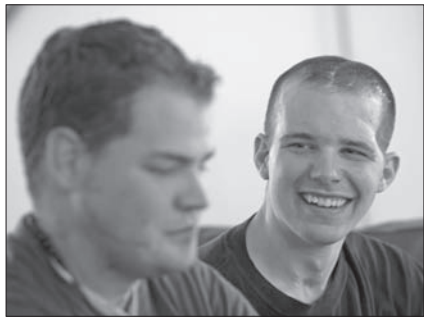
The turnaround from appointment to procedure was quick. Unlike the VA, where appointments were months apart, the team had Kirby in surgery within weeks.

Hirsch's team removed the metal plate in Kirby's jaw and replaced it with custom-fitted titanium dental implants and artificial teeth. They also correctly aligned Kirby's jawbone with his teeth, allowing him to eat and talk more normally. Two of the procedures were done pro bono.

When Kirby awoke from the initial surgery, the major pain he had dealt with for 10 years was gone.

"When that happened, every door in my life turned into an open door," he said.

That door could open for other



JONATHAN WRIGHT/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Former Petty Officer 3rd Class Dustin Kirby, left, meets in 2009 with former Lance Cpl. Colin Smith, an infantry Marine shot in Iraq in 2006. Kirby was the corpsman who saved Smith's life.

veterans. In an interview, Northwell's president and CEO stressed the importance the medical staff puts on caring for veterans.

"We're going to be unbelievably collaborative in working with the person to make sure the ability to get care is not restricted by the resources that person has," Michael Dowling said. "If there is no revenue or there is no asset ... and the circumstance is dire, we provide it anyway. We work with the person to make sure they get the care."

(Veterans in need of care can reach out to Northwell at 516-881-7020 or through their website at northwell.edu/veterans.)

Healing, helping others

In the three years since his life-altering operation, Kirby has been able to address his post-traumatic stress disorder more acutely. Briefly married, he now has four daughters. They're able to see him smile without pain, and he has a job as a surveyor for a pipe-laying business.

He said that thanks to the procedure and his continued mental health care, he's able to be "a better dad, a better man, a happier man."

Kirby, Smith and other 2/8 Marines remain in touch. Smith's family held a party on the 10-year anniversary of the Marine's injury, his mother said, to celebrate "the fact that he survived something horrific." Among the guests was Kirby, without whom the anniversary would have been a much darker one.

Kirby remains fiercely proud of his service, saying that he'd do everything again, even knowing the pain he had to go through. And he's not afraid to share his story.

To that end, he has partnered with Northwell for a concert event at Rockefeller Center in conjunction with New York's Fleet Week — a massive event in which Marines and sailors descend on the city for a weeklong celebration.

"I don't want a lot of attention," he said. "I understand that people want to celebrate a victory, but the reason I'm going out there is there have been a lot of losses because there are a lot of people without hope."

Called "Side by Side," the May 25 event will feature high-profile musical acts and military exhibits by the Navy. It also will feature speeches by former servicemembers — Kirby among them — who are using the elevated platform to reach out to wounded veterans to let them know there are ways to get treatment.

Much of the event is free. For more information, visit sidebyside-nycc.com.

"We're going to shine a light on a good story to bring hope to those who don't have hope ... to help them in their hour of need," Kirby said. "Ultimately, that's what a corpsman does. That's what I am. That's what I'll be until the day I die."

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MILITARY

US-Russia chill stirs worry about armed conflict

By Robert Burns

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—It has the makings of a new Cold War, or worse.

The deep chill in U.S.-Russia relations is stirring concern in some quarters that Washington and Moscow are in danger of stumbling into an armed confrontation that, by mistake or miscalculation, could lead to nuclear war.

American and European analysts and current and former U.S. military officers say the nuclear superpowers need to talk more. A foundational arms control agreement is being abandoned and the last major limitation on strategic nuclear weapons could go away in less than two years. Unlike during the Cold War, when generations lived under threat of a nuclear Armageddon, the two militaries are barely on speaking terms.

"During the Cold War, we understood each other's signals. We talked," said the top NATO commander in Europe, U.S. Army Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, who is about to retire. "I'm concerned that we don't know them as well today."

Scaparrotti, in his role as supreme allied commander Europe, has met only twice with Valery Gerasimov, the chief of the Russian general staff, but has spoken to him by phone a number of other times.

"I personally think communication is a very important part of deterrence," Scaparrotti said, referring to the idea that adversaries who know each other's capabilities and intentions are less likely to fall into conflict. "So, I think we should have more communication with Russia. It would ensure that we understand each other and why we are doing what we're doing."

He added, "It doesn't have to be a lot."

The United States and Russia, which together control more than 90 percent of the world's nuclear weapons, said that in August they will leave the 1987 treaty that

banned an entire class of nuclear weapons. And there appears to be little prospect of extending the 2010 New START treaty that limits each side's strategic nuclear weapons.

After a period of post-Cold War cooperation on nuclear security and other defense issues, the relationship between Washington and Moscow took a nosedive, particularly after Russian forces entered the former Soviet republic of Georgia in 2008.

Tensions spiked with Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its military intervention in eastern Ukraine. In response, Congress in 2016 severely limited military cooperation with Russia.

The law prohibits "military-to-military cooperation" until the secretary of defense certifies that Russia "has ceased its occupation of Ukrainian territory" and "aggressive activities." The law was amended last year to state that it does not limit military talks aimed at "reducing the risk of conflict."

Relations frayed even more amid U.S. allegations that Russia interfered in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, although President Donald Trump has doubted Russian complicity in what U.S. intelligence agencies assert was an effort by Moscow to boost Trump's chances of winning the

White House. After a Helsinki summit with Putin in July, Trump publicly accepted the Kremlin leader's denial of interference.

Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in an interview Friday that Russian behavior is to blame for the strained relationship.

"It's very difficult for us to have normal relationships with a country that has not behaved normally over the last few years," Dunford said. "There are major issues that affect our bilateral relationship that have to be addressed, to include where Russia has violated international laws, norms and standards."

Dunford said he speaks regularly with Gerasimov, his Russian counterpart, and the two sides talk on other levels.

"I'm satisfied right now with our military-to-military communication to maintain a degree of transparency that mitigates the risk of miscalculation," he said. "I think we have a framework within to manage a crisis, should one occur, at the senior military-to-military level."

James Stavridis, a retired Navy admiral who was the top NATO commander in Europe from 2009 to 2013, said the West must confront Russia where necessary, including on its interventions in Ukraine and

Syria. But he believes there's room for cooperation on multiple fronts, including the Arctic and arms control.

"We are in danger of stumbling backward into a Cold War that is to no one's advantage," he said in an email. "Without steady, political-level engagement between the defense establishments, the risk of a true new Cold War rises steadily."

No one is predicting a deliberate Russian act of war in Europe, but the decline in regular talks is a worry to many.

Moscow says it is ready to talk. "Russia remains open for interaction aimed at de-escalating tension, restoring mutual trust, preventing any misinterpretations of one another's intentions and reducing the risk of dangerous incidents," the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement last week in response to NATO's 70th anniversary celebration.

Sam Nunn, who served in the Senate as a Democrat from Georgia from 1972 to 1997, argues that dialogue with Russia is too important to set aside, even if it carries domestic political risk.

"You can't call time out," he said in an interview. "The nuclear issues go on, and they're getting more dangerous."

Nunn co-wrote an opinion piece with former Secretary of State George Shultz and former Defense Secretary William Perry arguing that the U.S. and its allies and Russia are caught in a "policy paralysis" that could lead to a military confrontation and potentially the first use of nuclear weapons since the U.S. bombed Japan in August 1945.

"A bold policy shift is needed to support a strategic re-engagement with Russia and walk back from this perilous precipice," they wrote in the Wall Street Journal on Thursday. "Otherwise, our nations may soon be entrenched in a nuclear standoff more precarious, disorienting and economically costly than the Cold War."

A bold policy shift is needed to support a strategic re-engagement with Russia and walk back from this perilous precipice.

former Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., former Secretary of State George Shultz and former Defense Secretary William Perry in an opinion piece

Diplomacy: Trump insists punishing economic sanctions will remain in place

FROM FRONT PAGE

to the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

Kim stressed that his personal relationship with Trump remains good enough "to be able to exchange letters asking about health anytime if we want."

His remarks were made in a policy speech to the North's parliament body a day after Trump met with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in Washington.

Trump said Thursday that he may be open to discussing smaller steps such as humanitarian relief, but he insisted that punishing economic sanctions would remain in place.

"There are various smaller deals that maybe could happen," Trump told reporters. "You could work out step-by-step pieces, but at this moment, we're talking about the big deal. The big deal is we have to get rid of the nuclear weapons."

Analysts said that Kim seemed to be officially rejecting the "big deal" approach while leaving room for more negotiations.

"It's clear he's interested in continuing with diplomacy, but he's also throwing the ball back

into Washington's court and trying to press it to be more flexible," said Duyen Kim, a Seoul-based expert on Korean affairs with the Center for a New American Security.

"For the North, it appears that they just want to continue with their usual tactic of piecemeal deals and a protracted negotiating process to run out the clock," she said. "He may still be open to a comprehensive deal as long as the configuration of trade-offs is calculated based on Pyongyang's metrics and terms."

She is advocating for the two sides to develop a comprehensive road map that would lay out pathways to achieve denuclearization, a peace treaty and a normalization of relations.

Good relations, but ...

The developments suggest neither side is eager to return to the escalating military threats that raised fears of a new war as the North conducted a series of nuclear and missile tests in 2016-17. But Kim signalled his patience was growing thin.

"Of course, we also attach importance to the settlement of the

issue through dialogue and negotiations," he said, according to KCNA's English translation of his remarks.

But he criticized the Americans for "coming forward with unilateral, gangsterlike demands" and said the North would hold more talks only "if the U.S. adopts a correct posture."

"We will wait for a bold decision from the U.S., with patience till the end of the year, but I think it will definitely be difficult to get such a good opportunity as the previous summit," he added. Trump responded to Kim's speech with a tweet agreeing that the two leaders maintain a very good relationship and that "a third Summit would be good in that we fully understand where we each stand."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the two countries "have continued to have conversations" and that Kim had personally committed to denuclearization.

"We have work to do, but I am confident we'll continue to make progress," he said during a press conference Saturday in Paraguay.

Kim and Trump agreed in their first summit on June 12 in

Singapore to work toward the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." But the two sides have failed to agree on what that means and how it should be achieved.

Kim did not mention denuclearization in his speech. Instead, he called for increasing the country's military might.

"Self-reliant national defense capabilities constitute a powerful, treasured sword for defending the sovereignty of the country," he said, using common rhetoric.

He also appealed to South Korea to stop acting as a "mediator" and to implement joint economic initiatives and other agreements made in three inter-Korean summits since April 27, 2018.

Sanctions factor

Seoul, a staunch U.S. ally that hosts 28,500 troops, has called for sanctions to be eased to allow joint projects such as modernizing railways to move forward.

Eric Gomez, a policy analyst with the Cato Institute, a libertarian U.S. think tank, said some sanctions relief would help South Korea in its efforts to improve

ties.

North Korea "can afford to hold out for a better deal while also driving a wedge between Seoul and Washington by appealing to Moon's desire for progress," Gomez said.

"The United States should loosen its position somewhat and lay out what kinds of measures it would be willing to take in return for specific, and limited, North Korean actions," he said.

Trump said Thursday that he wants to ease sanctions at the right time, "but now isn't the right time."

Rep. Ami Bera, a California Democrat who is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, agreed, adding that it's important for the allies to show solidarity.

"I don't think we should reward North Korea for doing nothing," he told Stars and Stripes on Friday in a telephone interview.

"Our sense in Congress is North Korea has not made any demonstrable moves towards denuclearization, and, ultimately, that's the goal," he added.

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Dunford



Scaparrotti

MILITARY

3rd Guard officer fired in whistleblower case

By PAUL PRINGLE
AND ALENE TCHEKMEDEYAN
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — A third high-ranking officer in the California Air National Guard has been removed from his position because of complaints that he made whistleblowers feel threatened at the 144th Fighter Wing in Fresno.

Col. Victor Sikora was relieved of command after engaging in “conduct unbecoming of an officer” by addressing a gathering of Guard members in a manner some found intimidating and humiliating, according to a report released Friday.

An internal inquiry also determined that Sikora improperly “excoriated” a retired pilot for speaking to the Los Angeles Times, the report said.

Sikora did not respond to requests for comment Friday.

Earlier this month, Maj. Gen. Clay L. Garrison and Col. Dan Kelly were removed in the wake of a Times investigation that detailed the whistleblower complaints and allegations that officers covered up an incident in which someone urinated in a female Guard member's boots.

Garrison was the top commander of the air Guard, and Kelly headed the 144th wing.

Friday's report said that Sikora's “conduct also had a chilling effect” on Guard members by discouraging them from exercising their rights to seek redress through the organization's inspector general, their representatives in Congress or the news media. It said Sikora used insult-



Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Col. Victor Sikora was relieved from his position at the 144th Fighter Wing in Fresno, Calif., after engaging in “conduct unbecoming of an officer.”

ing and defamatory language in remarks to subordinates.

The report was prepared by Brig. Gen. Tim Rieger, who was tasked by Maj. Gen. David Baldwin, head of the California Military Department, with investigating Sikora's actions.

Sikora was suspended as the wing's Operations Group leader in December. Three days later, the report said, he called a mandatory meeting of his subordinates to discuss his suspension.

At least one person recorded the briefing, where Sikora said anyone filing complaints was causing problems for the wing, according to the report.

“The vast majority of you are good people who are killing it in a high ops tempo year. You're very honorable, red-blooded Americans,” Sikora said at the meeting, according to the report.

“The vast majority means all of you, except for a couple of you, and they know who they are so we don't need to call them out. But everybody else.”

Several Guard members took Sikora's remarks as a criticism of people who had filed complaints with the inspector general.

Sikora's briefing came after the Times began asking questions about alleged retaliation against whistleblowers and the incident in which Staff Sgt. Jennifer Pineda found that someone at the Fresno base had urinated in the boots she had left in a bathroom overnight.

At least five Guard members, including a pilot who was killed in October in a crash during a training mission in Ukraine, from the 144th wing filed formal complaints. Two of those were related to the urine incident, including one filed by Pineda.

She said in her complaint she feared she'd be forced out of the military because some had speculated that she urinated in her own boots “for attention.”

A 144th pilot, Lt. Col. Rob Swertfager, also filed a complaint alleging that commanders punished him including by withholding his pay on occasion — for speaking up for Pineda.

Both of them, along with others, felt tar-

geted by Sikora's remarks, the report said.

“This clearly means that anyone exercising their right to speak with the IG or the press is not honorable, not a good person, and implies they are not a red-blooded American,” the report quotes Swertfager as saying.

“The speech was clearly directed at me and a few other people that have pursued justice through the IG.”

Swertfager could not be reached for comment. Pineda declined to comment.

Rieger recommended in his report that Sikora receive a memorandum of reprimand and be relieved of command due to the “loss of faith” in him as a 144th leader.

He also recommended “close monitoring” of any unfavorable personnel actions against complainants or witnesses in the 144th as possible reprisal.

Garrison was removed because the California Military Department, which oversees the air and army branches of the Guard, had lost “faith, trust and confidence” in his ability to lead, a spokesman said.

In a report released after the ousters of Garrison and Kelly, the Military Department inspector general cited findings of the Times investigation two months ago.

“Based on this article, and in addition to other evidence collected, it would appear that there is a culture of reprisal, or at a minimum the perception of reprisal, that has a long-stemmed history within the 144th,” the inspector general report states.

Action on Pentagon nomination awaits end of ethics probe

By MISSY RYAN, JOSH DAWSEY
AND PAUL SONNE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump intends to delay a decision on whether to nominate acting defense secretary Patrick Shanahan to the job permanently until an ethics probe concludes, officials said, raising the possibility of an extended period of uncertainty at the highest levels of the U.S. military.

Two White House officials said that barring any damning conclusions, the president was likely to nominate Shanahan after the Pentagon's inspector general concludes its investigation into allegations that the former Boeing executive may have improperly sought to influence decisions affecting his longtime employer. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss personnel decisions.

Shanahan, who stepped into the top Pentagon job in January after his predecessor, Jim Mattis, resigned over differences with Trump, denies the allegations and expects to be cleared.

White House officials said aides have warned the president that it would be difficult to win Senate

confirmation while the probe is ongoing.

The investigation has injected a new element of unpredictability into an already uncertain outlook at the Pentagon, where officials are scrambling to prepare for heightened competition with China and Russia while seeking to manage polarizing orders such as the use of military funds to build Trump's border wall.

In some ways, Shanahan may be more aligned with Trump's foreign policy impulses than Mattis, a retired Marine general who spent years immersed in the counterterrorism wars of the post-9/11 era. Shanahan appears less inclined to fight for robust counterinsurgent deployments and has taken a business-minded approach to the military that dovetails with the president's.

Further delays in nominating a permanent secretary could pose problems for the Defense Department.

Brian McKeon, who was an acting senior Pentagon official during the Obama administration, said Shanahan's acting status might not affect his ability to do his job because he is “vested with all the power of the secretary, and people in DOD — civilian and military — respond to the office and to people with authority.”

But McKeon said Shanahan's status might make him less likely to challenge the White House or other agencies in internal policy discussions. “Every Cabinet sec-

retary has to pick their battles with the White House,” he said. “I'd guess that Shanahan is picking fewer of them than a Senate-confirmed secretary would be.”

The Pentagon's inspector general opened the probe after Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, or CREW, a government watchdog group, filed a complaint alleging that Shanahan, according to news reports, appeared to have “made numerous statements promoting his former employer Boeing and has disparaged the company's competitors before subordinates at the agency.”

CREW cited a story by Politico saying that Shanahan had praised Boeing and criticized its competitor Lockheed-Martin in private remarks during his time as deputy secretary.

The delay in nominating a defense secretary has frustrated some lawmakers, who have complained about the growing number of senior roles in the administration that are filled by officials who have not gone through the Senate confirmation process. The Departments of Homeland Security and Interior are among the large agencies without a confirmed leader. The White House chief of staff, Mike Mulvaney, is also serving in an acting capacity.

Some worry that overseas leaders may perceive they are dealing with a Pentagon leader with reduced status because of the ab-

sence of the Senate's imprimatur. The situation has also threatened Shanahan's stature in Congress, where he is trying to get a new defense budget passed to recalibrate the military and establish the Space Force.

At the same time, lawmakers would balk at the idea of confirming a defense secretary in the middle of an active inspector general investigation. The result is an unprecedented period of limbo at the Pentagon, with Shanahan

now the longest-serving acting defense secretary since the establishment of the department shortly after World War II.

The White House could reconsider its decision to nominate Shanahan if the probe does not clear him, according to an official familiar with the internal deliberations. The White House, facing pressure from Senate lawmakers, could also choose to nominate someone else if the investigation dragged on.



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NATION



JIM LYTTLE/AP

Clockwise from above: Leslie Harrington helps a former neighbor and family friend look for jewelry in her damaged home outside Hamilton, Miss., after an apparent tornado touched down Saturday night; a vehicle drives through a flooded section of road on Saturday in Odessa, Texas; Angel Funk surveys weather damage in the backyard of her Franklin, Texas, home.



JACOB FORD, ODESSA (TEXAS) AMERICAN/AP



LAURA MCKENZIE, THE (BRYAN, TEXAS) EAGLE/AP

Powerful, deadly storms sweep across South

Associated Press

Powerful storms that killed at least three people swept across the South over the weekend after spawning suspected tornadoes that left more than 20 people injured and multiple homes and businesses damaged or without power.

One person was killed in northeastern Mississippi when a tree crashed onto his trailer, Monroe County Road Manager Sonny Clay said at a news conference, adding that a tornado had struck. Another 19 were taken to hospitals, including two who were in critical condition.

A tornado was reported in the area 140 miles southwest of Memphis, Tenn., at the time.

National Weather Service meteorologist John Moore said a

possible twister touched down Saturday in the Vicksburg, Miss., area. No injuries were reported there, but officials said several businesses and vehicles were damaged. Trees were down throughout the hilly city on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River.

The roof of a hotel in New Albany, Miss., was damaged, although the cause was unclear.

Mississippi State University's 21,000 students huddled in basements and hallways as a tornado came near the school's campus in Starkville.

University spokesman Sid Salter said some debris, possibly carried by the tornado, was found on campus, but no injuries were reported and no buildings were damaged.

Trees were down and at least

some minor damage was reported in residential areas east of the campus.

Heavy rains and storms raked the Magnolia State into the night, then moved into Alabama. A possible tornado knocked out power and left damage in Troy, about 50 miles south of Montgomery. A mobile-home community was damaged, but no injuries were reported.

In East Texas, two children were killed when a pine tree fell onto the back of the car in which they were riding in a severe thunderstorm Saturday. The car was on a back country road in Polk, about 150 miles southeast of Dallas.

The tree "flattened the car like a pancake," said Capt. Alton Lenderman, of the Angelina County

Sheriff's Office. The children, ages 8 and 3, were dead at the scene, although both parents, who were in the front seat, escaped injury, he said.

The large storm system also knocked out power to thousands and caused flash floods. More than 140,000 customers had lost power in Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas as of late Saturday.

A tornado hit the small Central Texas city of Franklin, overturning mobile homes and damaging other residences, said Robertson County Sheriff Gerald Yezak. Franklin is about 125 miles south of Dallas.

The weather service said preliminary information showed an EF-3 tornado touched down, with winds of 140 mph.

Two people were hospitalized

for injuries not thought to be life-threatening, while others were treated at the scene for minor injuries, Yezak said. Some people had to be extricated from their homes.

Downed trees and damage to buildings and a transmission tower were reported, said meteorologist Monique Sellers.

Winds of up to 60 mph were reported in Cherokee County, Texas, damaging two homes in Alto, about 140 miles north of Houston, but no injuries were reported.

The forecast of severe weather forced officials at the Masters in Augusta, Ga., to begin the tournament early Sunday, starting three-somes off the first and 10th tees on the day's final round in hopes of finishing by midafternoon.

Magnitude 5.3 earthquake hits Hawaii; no risk of tsunami

Associated Press

KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii — A magnitude 5.3 earthquake hit the west side of the Big Island of Hawaii on Saturday, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

The quake hit about 5 p.m. and had an epicenter about 15 miles

southwest of Kailua-Kona, a city of nearly 12,000 people on the island's west coast, the agency said. The earthquake had a depth of about 10 miles.

There is no danger of a tsunami, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center of the National Weather

Service said. Parts of the island may have experienced strong shaking, the center said.

The U.S. Geological Survey said it had received 894 responses from people saying they had felt the earthquake.

Hawaii Electric Light tweeted that about 3,300 customers were

without power in the community of Waikoloa, Hawaii News Now reported. Crews were working to restore power.

Civil Defense officials told Hawaii News Now that the earthquake caused a large boulder to come down onto Highway 19-

Queen Kaahumanu at the Hapuna Junction. The news agency also reported that Captain Cook resident Elizabeth Cano said on Facebook that her whole house shook in the quake.

"I'm still cleaning up broken glass," she said.

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NATION

Trump sanctuary city idea may help migrants settle in

By **ASTRID GALVAN**
AND **MORGAN LEE**
Associated Press

PHOENIX — An idea floated by President Donald Trump to send immigrants from the border to “sanctuary cities” to exact revenge on Democratic foes could end up doing the migrants a favor by placing them in locations that make it easier to put down roots and stay in the country.

The plan would put thousands of immigrants in cities that are not only welcoming to them but also more likely to rebuff federal officials carrying out deportation orders. Many of those locations have more resources than smaller cities to help immigrants make their legal cases to stay in the United States, with some of the nation's biggest immigration advocacy groups based in places like San Francisco, New York City and Chicago.

The downside for the immigrants would be a high cost of living in the cities.

The Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University announced last week that an analysis found immigrants in sanctuary cities such as New York and Los Angeles are 20% less likely to be arrested out in the community than in cities without such policies.

“With immigrants being less likely to commit crimes than the U.S.-born population, and with sanctuary jurisdictions being safer and more productive than nonsanctuary jurisdictions, the data damns this proposal as a politically motivated stunt that seeks to play politics with peoples’ lives,” said George Gascon, district attorney for San Francisco.

Trump has grown increasingly frustrated over the situation at the border, where tens of thousands of immigrant families are crossing each month, many to

claim asylum.

The idea to ship immigrants to Democratic strongholds was considered twice in recent months, but the White House and Department of Homeland Security said the plan had been rejected. Trump said Friday he was still considering the idea.

Wilson Romero is an immigrant from Honduras who chose to settle in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Romero, 27, was separated from his daughter, now 7, by federal authorities at the U.S. border at El Paso, Texas, last year and jailed for three months before being released and making his way to live with his mother in San Jose, Calif. There he was reunited with his daughter, who attends public kindergarten.

Romero said he goes about daily errands in public without worry of discrimination.

To him, the biggest problem with being in the Bay Area is the high cost of living. The former textile factory worker relies on his mother's income from waitressing for food and clothing, and he's started thinking about asking legal permission to move to North Carolina, where an uncle resides and says it's cheaper to live and work.

The plan discussed by Trump would also have financial, logistical and legal issues.

The transportation of immigrants who are arrested at the border to large and faraway cities would be burdensome and costly at a time when Immigration and Customs Enforcement is already stretched thin, having released more than 125,000 immigrants into the country pending their immigration court since Dec. 21.

Flights chartered by ICE cost about \$7,785 per flight hour, according to the agency, and require multiple staffers, including an in-flight medical professional.



BLAKE GUMPRECHT, THE LAS CRUCES (N.M.) SUN-NEWS/AP

A U.S. Border Patrol agent helps migrants out of a van on Friday at the Gospel Rescue Mission in Las Cruces, N.M. More migrants were delivered there on Saturday, prompting a city call for donations.

Migrants dropped off in New Mexico; city asks for donations

Associated Press

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — Border Patrol agents dropped off asylum-seeking migrants in New Mexico's second-most populous city for the second day in a row Saturday, prompting Las Cruces city officials to appeal for donations of food and personal hygiene items and a state medical program to seek volunteers to provide health assessments of migrants.

The migrants were being temporarily housed at a homeless shelter in Las Cruces, a city recreation center and a campus of social service agencies, city officials said in a statement.

The statement said 83 migrants arrived Saturday, following about 95 who were dropped off by the Border Patrol on Friday at the Gospel Rescue Mission homeless shelter and the Community of Hope campus.

The Las Cruces Sun-News reported Las Cruces churches for months have been providing temporary shelter to migrants released from Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention but that Friday was the first time that the Border Patrol vans dropped off migrants at the homeless shelter.

City spokesman Udell Vigil said Saturday that migrants could

be arriving “for the next several days.”

Las Cruces is not a sanctuary city that rebuffs federal officials carrying out deportation orders.

Some migrants were taken to Meerscheidt Recreation Center, which the statement said was closed to the public because of its use as temporary housing for migrants.

The statement said needed items included utensils, napkins, paper plates, sanitary napkins, shampoo, clothing, towels, blankets, canned food, bottled water, foam padding for bedding and stuffed toys.

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JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

President Donald Trump discusses immigration and border security on April 5 at the U.S. Border Patrol Candelero Station in Calexico, Calif. Trump's proposal to send seized immigrants to U.S. “sanctuary cities” could work to the benefit of many of them.

NATION



PHOTOS BY HANS MADSEN, THE (FORT DODGE, IOWA) MESSENGER/AP

A 30,000-pound armored personnel carrier being driven by Tony Borglum, owner of Drive A Tank in Kasota, Minn., smashes through the old shower building at the Twin Lakes Bible Camp in Iowa on April 6.

Unconventional demolition

Armored personnel carrier brought in to raze Iowa Bible camp

By HANS MADSEN

The (Fort Dodge, Iowa) Messenger

TWIN LAKES, Iowa — There are plenty of conventional ways to demolish an old building: Take it down board by board, knock it down with a bulldozer or even let the local fire department burn it for practice.

None of those was going to do for Twin Lakes Bible Camp Executive Director Scott Larsen. He found another way while brainstorming with his friend, Colin Johnson.

"I know somebody that's got a tank," he said to the Messenger. It was the perfect solution.

That guy with the collection of armored personnel carriers is Tony Borglum, owner of Drive A Tank in Kasota, Minn.

"It's a FV432 armored personnel carrier," Borglum said. "It's British, it weighs about 30,000 pounds and it's from the early 1960s."

Borglum began collecting armored vehicles after he got a little bored with collecting cars.

"I was looking to buy an armored vehicle," he said. "Cars look alike after awhile."

He said U.S. armored personnel carriers are scarce and expensive.

"It's cheaper to buy in England and bring it here," he said.

Borglum took it slow and low while driving it through the camp's buildings, but the armored personnel carrier can reach speeds of 30 mph. It can carry a crew of two and 10 soldiers.

In battle-ready condition, it can operate in a both nuclear and biological warfare environments.

Therefore, a little building dust is nothing.

Borglum has a unique way of measuring the mileage, a way probably not on par with a Prius: "I measure it in smiles per miles."

Larsen said the first building to go, a wood structure, was the last building still standing of the original farm.

"It was originally a barn," he said. "When they opened the camp, this became our chapel in 1956, and it was used for that for decades."

When a new chapel was built, the structure was used for other things.

"Most recently, it was the camp store, kids' playing area and storage," Larsen said.

A new building is going to rise there. It will be a combination dining hall and main building.

Fundraising efforts for the new

building continue; \$1 million is still needed of the estimated \$2 million required.

"This is the site," Larsen said, taking a last look. "They've served us well."

Jon Back, Twin Lakes Bible Camp program director, spoke during a brief ceremony before the vehicle was fired up. He talked about the second structure to be demolished, a brick shower building nicknamed "Adam and Eve." Apparently, it is not the place where everyone got their favorite camp memories.

"Not as many people like it," he said. "But everybody uses it."

A few visitors talked about their memories of the building.

"I became a Christian in that building," one said.

"Thousands have come to Christ in this building," another added.

After a prayer, everyone got out of the way, pulled out their cameras and phones and let Borglum and his armored personnel carrier do their thing.

It was not without a bit of humor, though.

He made his first pass of destruction as the strains of "Amazing Grace" played over the public address system.

A bagpipe version, of course.



Nic Schleicher, of Owatonna, Minn., knocks a few boards off the top of the armored personnel carrier so Borglum can open the hatch after one of the passes through an old building at the camp.



Borglum and Schleicher look over the debris field and the destroyed lawn as they figure out how to get a section of roof off of the armored personnel carrier.

NATION

Ind. mayor, vet of Afghanistan War, to seek presidency

By SARA BURNETT
Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Pete Buttigieg, the little-known Indiana mayor who has risen to prominence in the early stages of the 2020 Democratic presidential race, was to make his candidacy official during a rally Sunday in the city where he launched his political career less than a decade ago.

The 37-year-old Rhodes Scholar and Afghanistan War veteran, who has been exploring a White House run since January, planned a formal announcement that he's joining the field of a dozen-plus rivals during a rally in South Bend, the town of roughly 100,000 where he grew up and is now serving his second term as mayor.

He will return this week to Iowa and New Hampshire, which hold the nation's first nominating contests, to campaign as a full-fledged candidate now being taken more seriously.

Over the past few months, Buttigieg has appeared frequently on national TV news and talk shows and developed a strong social media following with his message

that the country needs "a new generation of leadership."

Buttigieg's poll numbers have climbed. Some polls put him behind only Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who sought the party's nomination in 2016, and former Vice President Joe Biden, who has not yet said he's running.

Buttigieg's campaign has raised more than \$7 million in the first three months of this year, a total eclipsed by Sanders' leading \$18 million but more than Sens. Elizabeth Warren, of Massachusetts; Amy Klobuchar, of Minnesota; and Cory Booker, of New Jersey.

"Right now, it's pretty fun," Buttigieg told The Associated Press last month while visiting South Carolina, where he was met by larger-than-expected crowds. His challenge is finding a way to sustain the momentum over the long term and avoiding becoming a "flavor-of-the-month" candidate.

Scrutiny of his leadership in South Bend has increased, as has his criticism of Vice President Mike Pence, who was Indiana's governor when Buttigieg was in his first term as mayor.

Buttigieg would be the first



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

A volunteer helps during preparations in South Bend, Ind., on Sunday for the announcement by Mayor Pete Buttigieg that he will seek the Democratic presidential nomination for 2020.

openly gay nominee of a major presidential party, he married his husband, Chasten, last year. He would be the first mayor to go directly to the White House.

And he would be the youngest person to become president, turning 39 the day before the next inauguration, on Jan. 20, 2021. Theodore Roosevelt was 42 when he took office, while John F. Kennedy was 43 and Bill Clinton 46.

Themes that have resonated with voters during Buttigieg's exploratory phase have included how political decisions shape people's lives, including his own — from serving as a lieutenant in

the Navy Reserve in 2014 to being able to marry his husband and to not having to worry about how to pay for his father's hospital bills after his father's death this year.

Buttigieg has criticized President Donald Trump's campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again," saying the way to move the country forward is not to look backward or cling to nostalgia for an old way of life.

South Bend, which neighbors the University of Notre Dame, was hit hard by the decline of manufacturing, dating to the 1963 closing of the Studebaker auto plant that costs thousands of

residents their jobs.

The hulking, dilapidated factory loomed over the city for much of the past 60 years as what Buttigieg called a daily reminder of South Bend's past.

Buttigieg planned to give his speech inside that building, which underwent a multimillion-dollar renovation led by a private developer with help from state grants and tax increment financing from the city.

The newly remodeled structure is now part of a mixed-use technology center outside the city's downtown.

Some GOP states push for tax hikes to fix crumbling roads

By DAVID EGGERT
Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. — After passing waves of tax cuts in recent years, some lawmakers in several Republican-dominated states have decided it's time to make a big exception and are pushing for tax increases to fix roads that are crumbling from years of neglect.

In the past month alone, the Republican governors of Ohio, Alabama and Arkansas have signed fuel tax increases. Meanwhile, proposed increases are being considered by three legislatures that are fully or partly GOP-controlled, including a whopping 45-cents-a-gallon increase in Michigan.

The moves show a growing willingness in conservative places to take on the fear-some politics of higher taxes, at least for infrastructure. Republicans who otherwise support lower taxes are acknowledging that cutting government spending elsewhere in the budget won't cover the cost of repairing the many miles of potholed roads and crummy bridges.

"It's going to take \$2.5 billion a year," Detroit Regional Chamber CEO Sandy Baruah said of Michigan's road-building needs. "Anyone who thinks you can cut even half of that out of other elements of the state budget without having significant ramifications to real people, you're smoking something that's not legal."

Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer won election last year after running on the slogan "Fix the Damn Roads." Her plan



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

Interstate Highway 75 construction continues in Troy, Mich., on Friday. Some Republican-dominated states are calling for tax increases to fix roads crumbling from years of low funding and deferred maintenance.

would gradually add 45 cents to the cost of a gallon of gas by October 2020, which would be more than double the current 26-cents-per-gallon gas tax and make it the highest in the country. GOP legislative leaders have dismissed the proposed increase as way too much, but they are leaving open the prospect of passing a more modest increase in the face of intense pressure from the business community.

In some states, Republican-leaning interests have become the biggest backers of higher taxes for this purpose, which is seen as necessary for economic development.

While consumers are acutely conscious of prices at the pump, legislators are struggling to get around the difficult realities of the fuel surcharge that funds transportation projects. They are also facing the echoes of the tax cut promises they made

in winning over many heartland states in the last decade — that getting tougher on spending wouldn't mean worse services.

In most states, the excise tax rate per gallon is fixed and doesn't rise with inflation. The federal gas tax has remained unchanged since 1993.

Meanwhile, consumers are driving more fuel-efficient vehicles or are driving less, depressing revenue. The real purchasing power of the federal gas tax has fallen by 40% over the past quarter-century, and repair costs rise significantly when roads decline to a rating of poor or worse.

This past winter, Michigan's Department of Transportation had to close 10 miles of Interstate 75 in suburban Detroit — one of the state's most heavily trafficked stretches — because of vehicle damage from cracks and potholes.

In Ohio, Gov. Mike DeWine, a Republican who attacked his opponent in the 2018 campaign as a tax-friendly Democrat, this month signed off on a 10.5-cent gas tax increase and a 19-cent diesel tax increase. Republican Govs. Kay Ivey, of Alabama, and Asa Hutchinson, of Arkansas, last month signed increases that were their states' first in decades, of 10 cents and 3 cents, respectively. And the GOP-led General Assembly in Virginia this month voted to add 7 cents a gallon in some parts of the state, which was a win for Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam.

Fuel tax increases also are under consideration in Wisconsin and Minnesota, where power is divided between the parties.

NATION

All-male college will soon admit transgender men

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK
Associated Press

The country's only all-male historically black college will begin admitting transgender men next year, marking a major shift for the school at a time when higher education institutions around the nation are adopting more welcoming policies toward LGBT students.

Leaders of Morehouse College in Atlanta told The Associated Press that its board of trustees approved the policy Saturday.

"Transgender men will be allowed to enroll in the school for the first time in 2020. Students who identify as women but were born male cannot enroll, however, and anyone who transitions from male to female will not be automatically eligible to receive a degree from the institution."

Morehouse officials hailed the move as an important step toward a more inclusive campus while affirming its mission to educate and develop men.

"I think Morehouse having the courage to speak to issues of masculinity in today's environment is important," Morehouse College President David Thomas told The Associated Press. "For 152 years, the world has, in some way, seen Morehouse as the West Point of black male development."

The policy also states that Morehouse "will continue to use masculine pronouns" which it calls "the language of brotherhood."

Morehouse is an iconic college that counts the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., filmmaker Spike Lee and former Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson among its alumni. It bills itself as the "col-

lege of choice for black men" that has instilled leadership skills in generations of black men.

More than 1,000 colleges and universities nationwide have adopted some form of a transgender policy, including about two dozen historically black colleges. An increasing number of schools are updating admissions guidelines to ensure transgender students have a welcoming experience, said Human Rights Campaign spokeswoman Sarah McBride.

"Young people are incredibly supportive of LGBT equality, including transgender equality," McBride said. "Schools are responding in kind. In many ways, our college campuses look like the country we'll have in 10 or 15 years. There are a lot of reasons for hope."

Morehouse becomes the first standalone all-male college in the country to adopt a transgender policy. Nationwide, there are only two other all-male colleges, Washish College in Indiana and Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia. Minnesota's St. John's University, which enrolls only men but shares a co-ed academic program with the College of St. Benedict, also has a transgender policy.

Morehouse has had challenges around LGBT issues, most notably the 2002 attack by a 19-year-old student accused of beating with a baseball bat a fellow student he mistakenly thought was making a sexual advance.

Gregory Love's skull was fractured in the beating. Aaron Price was found guilty of assault and initially sentenced to 10 years in prison.



AARON LAVINSKY, (MINNEAPOLIS) STAR TRIBUNE/AP

Don Damond, whose white fiancée was killed by police, and Valerie Castle, whose black son was also killed by police in a separate incident, embrace in Minneapolis on July 20, 2017. Activists see disparities in the ways that police shootings of whites and blacks are handled.

Activists: Black cop's shooting of white woman treated differently

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — When an unarmed white woman who called 911 to report a crime was fatally shot by a black, Somali American police officer in Minneapolis, the racial dynamic seen in many police shooting cases in the U.S. was flipped on its head, and a different narrative emerged.

Justine Rusczyk Damond was immediately portrayed as the innocent victim she was, a peaceful woman who was trying to help someone else by calling 911 to report a possible rape in the alley behind her home. The officer, Mohamed Noor, was sharply criticized by the then-police chief, while others wrongly alleged he was a fast-track affirmative action hire for a city trying to diversify its police department.

Noor, 33, was charged — a rarity when an on-duty officer shoots someone — and is now on trial for murder and manslaughter in the July 2017 death of Damond, 40. She was a dual Australian American citizen who had taken on the name of her fiancé, Don Damond, though they were not

yet married.

While Minneapolis police spokesman John Elder said race is never a factor in the department's personnel decisions or internal investigations, some activists say it's been part of the equation from the start — from the public portrayals of Damond and Noor to the fact that Noor was charged and fired from the police force.

When the shooting happened, Somali Americans felt singled out because then-Chief Janee Harteau spoke out against Noor's actions instead of reserving judgment, and the police union was largely silent.

Noor shot Damond as she approached his police SUV. While prosecutors say there's no evidence of any threat to justify deadly force, Noor's attorneys argue that he heard a loud bang and feared he and his partner were being ambushed.

"We want black and Latino and native victims of police violence to be treated like her," said Shaun King, a Black Lives Matter activist and writer. "You can have the sweetest person ever killed, but if

they are black, poor and in a particular ZIP code, the portrayal is nothing like the portrayal that she received in this case."

Many activists say they're not advocating for leniency for Noor, but for equity — and for overall changes to policing in the U.S.

The problem, Nekima Levy Armstrong, a civil rights attorney and former president of the Minneapolis NAACP, says, is in the systemic nature of police violence and the public's willingness to rubber stamp it, as long as an officer says he or she was fearful.

"I don't want to see a Somali, black, Muslim officer be scapegoated when the rest of the system remains intact."

In the days after Damond's death, activists in Black Lives Matter and other groups came out in strong support of her family and friends.

Among them was the mother of Philando Castle, a black man who was shot during a traffic stop in Minnesota in 2016 after he informed a police officer he had a firearm. The officer, who is Latino, was acquitted in 2017.

Shock at arrest of deputy's son in 3 Louisiana black church fires

By KEVIN MCGILL
AND MELINDA DESLATTE
Associated Press

OPELOUSAS, La. — Authorities said he had no known criminal record. A friend described him as an introverted animal lover who showed no animosity toward any race, and a talented, if frustrated heavy metal guitar player. The same friend called him "a really sweet guy."

But Holden Matthews, the white, 21-year-old son of a Louisiana sheriff's deputy, was behind bars Thursday, accused of torching three century-old black churches during a 10-day period in and around Opelousas. The city of 16,000 people was set on edge by blazes, which evoked

memories of terrorist acts during the civil rights movement.



Matthews

cellphone tracking techniques led authorities to arrest Matthews on Wednesday evening. Though the arrest affidavit shows how they linked Matthews to the crime, federal, state and local authori-

ties who gathered for a Thursday news conference at the St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office weren't ready to discuss motive.

Eric Rommal, the agent in charge of the New Orleans FBI office, said investigators were still looking into whether the fires were "bias-motivated."

Matthews, who is scheduled for a Monday morning bond hearing, had a defender in Nygyl Brynn Blackwolf, listed as Nygyl Brynn among Matthews' Facebook friends. In a telephone interview on Thursday, he described Matthews as a talented, sometimes frustrated musician but not a racist or violent person.

"If he's making a statement, it's against religion and establishment, not only, not against race," he

said, later adding, "I don't think he did it, but if he did, it would not be because the churches are black."

Matthews had shown interest in "black metal," an extreme subgenre of heavy metal, state Fire Marshal Butch Browning said. The music has been linked, in some instances, to fires at Christian churches in Norway in the 1990s.

A Facebook page that appeared to belong to Matthews showed him with the words "black metal" spray-painted on a wall behind him. He also posted a comment on a movie's portrayal of black metal musician Varg Vikernes, a far-right figure convicted of manslaughter and arson at three churches.

Black metal lyrics often espouse Satanism and paganism, and a few bands feature neo-Nazi beliefs.

Blackwolf, however, insisted that the black metal genre is not characterized by racism.

Matthews was arrested on three counts of arson of a religious building. A conviction could bring up to 15 years in prison on each count, Browning said.

The Rev. Harry Richard, pastor of Greater Union Baptist Church, which was destroyed, said the arrest put him at ease and let him sleep at night.

"I felt relieved my congregation didn't have to worry anymore," said Richard, who was told of the arrest late Wednesday.

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Stay connected and hey, welcome to the neighborhood.

NATION

Giant Stratolaunch jet flies for first time

By JOHN ANTCAZK
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A giant six-engine aircraft with the world's longest wingspan completed what company officials called a superb initial flight over California's Mojave Desert, bringing to life a dream held by the late Microsoft co-founder Paul G. Allen.

Stratolaunch Systems Corp. chief executive Jean Floyd said Saturday the aircraft made a "spectacular" landing that was on the mark. Stratolaunch, which was founded by Allen, is vying to be a contender in the market for air-launching small satellites.

Allen died in October.

"It was an emotional moment for me, to personally watch this majestic bird take flight, to see Paul Allen's dream come to life in front of my very eyes," Floyd told a teleconference briefing.

Floyd said that as the plane lifted off, "I did whisper a 'thank you' to Paul for allowing me to be part of this remarkable achievement."

The behemoth, twin-fuselage Stratolaunch jet lifted off from Mojave Air and Space Port shortly before 7 a.m. Saturday and climbed into the desert sky 70 miles north of Los Angeles. The jet flew two hours, achieving a maximum speed of 189 mph and altitudes up to 17,000 feet, the company said.

Test pilot Evan Thomas, of Scaled Composites LLC, which built the aircraft, said the flight overall was "fantastic" and for the most part the plane flew as predicted.

"The airplane very nicely, smoothly rotated and really just lifted off the ground," he said. "It definitely was ready to fly and wanted to fly and climbed out quickly."

Thomas said there were "a few little things that were off-nominal but really for a first flight it



MATT HARTMAN/AP

Stratolaunch, a giant six-engine aircraft with the world's longest wingspan, makes its historic first flight from the Mojave Air and Space Port in Mojave, Calif., on Saturday.

was spot-on." He did not specify what those things were, and briefing participants did not take questions.

The aircraft is designed to carry as many as three satellite-laden rockets at a time under the center of its enormous wing, which stretches 385 feet — a longer wingspan than any other aircraft.

At an altitude of 35,000 feet, the rockets would be released, ignite their engines and soar into space.

The advantages of such air-launch systems include being able to use numerous airports

and avoid the limitations of fixed launch sites which can be affected by weather, air traffic and ship traffic on ocean ranges.

Allen, the co-founder of Microsoft, founded Stratolaunch Systems Corp. in 2011 after emerging in aerospace by funding the development of the experimental air-launched SpaceShipOne, which in 2004 became the first privately built manned rocket to reach space.

After Allen's death in October 2018, Stratolaunch dropped plans to develop its own type of rocket engine and a family of launch

vehicles, focusing instead on getting the giant plane airborne and launching Northrop Grumman's proven Pegasus XL.

The Stratolaunch aircraft emerged from its Mojave hangar for the first time in May 2017 and proceeded through ground tests, including taxiing and rolling down a runway at near-takeoff speeds.

Powered by the same type of engines used by Boeing 747s, the aircraft is designed to take off at a maximum weight of 1.3 million pounds. Its twin fuselages — sort of the airplane equivalent of a

catamaran — are 238 feet long.

The previous wingspan leader was Howard Hughes' World War II-era eight-engine H-4 Hercules flying boat — nicknamed the Spruce Goose. Surviving in an aviation museum, it has an approximately 320-foot wingspan but is just under 219 feet long.

While Stratolaunch calls its aircraft the world's largest, other airplanes exceed it in length from nose to tail. They include the six-engine Antonov AN 225 cargo plane, which is 275.5 feet long, and the Boeing 747-8, which is just over 250 feet long.

A rare trio of bald eagles are raising eaglets together

By ANGELA FRITZ
The Washington Post



COURTESY OF THE STEWARDS OF THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REFUGE/National Audubon Society

From left, Starr, Valor II and Valor I sit over eggs at their Illinois nest.

Proof that families come in all shapes, sizes and species, three eagles — two dads and a mom — are raising three, fluffy-feathered eaglets in a nest near the Mississippi River this spring.

According to the Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge, all three of the birds, Valor I, Valor II (dads) and Starr (mom) "take part in nest maintenance, incubation and raising the young."

The refuge hosts a live webcam of the Illinois family, which is a rare example of an eagle trio cooperatively nesting, raising their young together.

What might make this all-American family different is that both males are copulating with the mom, whereas earlier ex-

amples of a second dad may have only been a live-in nanny situation, with no role in the reproduction itself, Audubon reports.

Domestic life in this nest was in turmoil before Valor II arrived, and it has been only two years since the dad duo lost their first partner, Hope.

When Hope and Valor I began nesting at this location, Valor I "wasn't a very good partner or father," Audubon wrote. "He was irresponsible about incubating the eggs and feeding the eaglets, which were really his only two jobs."

"I think Hope didn't care for what Valor I was doing, so he got replaced," Pam Steinhilber, the visitor services manager at the refuge, told Audubon.

Even after Valor II moved in, Valor I stayed. By 2016, the trio was "cooperatively nesting."

Even Valor I was contributing, apparently motivated by his new male counterpart.

But the happy nest didn't last long, with Hope disappearing in a true-crime, unsolved mysteries kind of way.

The dads lost their first partner when two other male eagles attacked their nest last year. It was all captured on video and documented by the Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge.

That story has a bittersweet ending — the dads continued to raise their kids together, without Hope. The eaglets fledged at the end of May. The dads chose to stay together and found a new partner in Starr that fall, which they have been with since.

Starr laid three eggs this year that hatched in March. The kids are expected to fledge in the next several weeks.

WORLD

Pope ushers in Holy Week with call for humility

BY FRANCES D'EMILIO
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis warned against being judgmental and too full of oneself, including authorities in the Catholic church, in his Palm Sunday homily during Mass in St. Peter's Square, which was crowded with tens of thousands of pilgrims, tourists and Romans.

The day ushers in Holy Week, which will include Way of the Cross processions around the world to commemorate the Passion, or suffering, of Jesus on Good Friday and his death by crucifixion.

Palm Sunday services recall the cries and gestures of triumph by onlookers when Jesus entered Jerusalem. But not long after, ac-

cording to the New Testament, the public's mood changed, and Jesus was arrested, mocked, scourged and executed.

"Festive acclamations and brutal torture: the silence of Jesus throughout his Passion is profoundly impressive," Francis said in his homily.

The pope cautioned against the temptation of "triumphalism," which he said feeds itself by "looking askance at others and constantly judging them inferior, wanting, failures."

Francis added that "one subtle form of triumphalism is spiritual worldliness, which represents the greatest danger, the most treacherous temptation threatening the church." He recommended humility as a way to counter such temptations.



GESORIO BORSA/AP

Pope Francis sprinkles holy water as he celebrates Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Sunday.

The Catholic church in the last decades has been rocked by revelations of pedophilia and other sex abuse by clergy and often systematic cover-ups of that by its hierarchy.

The scandals have engulfed even bishops and cardinals and shaken the trust of countless rank-and-file faithful in the church.

Sprinkling holy water, Francis blessed palm fronds and olive

branches clutched by pilgrims, tourists and Romans before Mass began.

He watched from steps at the foot of the obelisk in the center of the square as prelates, holding dried, braided palms formed a circle around him.

Then, cradling a braided palm, he joined a solemn procession to a canopied altar set up outside St. Peter's Basilica.

Francis also invited people to pray for peace, especially in the Holy Land and the Middle East.

By the end of Mass, sunshine gave way to a soft, light rain and the crowd had swelled to 50,000 people, according to security officials. Francis, after removing his red robes, was driven in his white popemobile so he could wave to the crowd.

Madagascar measles epidemic kills more than 1,200

BY LAETITIA BEZAIN
Associated Press

AMBALAVAO, Madagascar — Babies wail as a nurse tries to reassure mothers who have come to vaccinate their children. They fear a measles epidemic that has killed more than 1,200 people in this island nation where many are desperately poor.

As Madagascar faces its largest measles outbreak in history and cases soar well beyond 115,000, resistance to vaccinating children is not the driving force.

Measles cases are rising in the United States and other parts of the world, in part the result of misinformation that makes some parents balk at a crucial vaccine. New York City is now trying to halt a measles outbreak by ordering mandatory vaccinations in one Brooklyn neighborhood.

In Madagascar, many parents would like to protect their children but face immense challenges including the lack of resources.

Just 58% percent of people on Madagascar's main island have been vaccinated against measles, a major factor in the outbreak's spread. With measles one of the most infectious diseases, immunization rates need to be 90 to 95% or higher to prevent outbreaks.

On a recent day, the Iarintsena health center's waiting room was full, with mothers sitting on the floor and others waiting outside in the overwhelming heat. Two volunteer nurses and a midwife tried to respond to the demand.

Nifalana Razafijafoa had walked 9 miles with her 6-month-



LAETITIA BEZAIN/AP

A volunteer nurse examines 6-month-old Sarobidy, who is infected with measles, while his mother, Nifalana Razafijafoa, looks on at a health care center in Iarintsena, Madagascar, on March 21. More than 1,200 people have died in the nation's measles epidemic.

old baby in her arms.

"He has a fever," she said. "I think it's measles because there are these little pimples that have appeared on his face."

The nurse quickly confirmed it.

"I'm so scared for him because in the village everyone says it kills babies," Razafijafoa said.

The measles outbreak has killed mostly children under age 15 since it began in September, according to the World Health Organization.

"The epidemic, unfortunately, continues to expand in size" though at a slower pace than a month ago, said Dr. Dossou Vincent Sodjinou, a WHO epi-

demologist in Madagascar. By mid-March, 117,075 cases had been reported by the Health Ministry, affecting all regions of the country.

Some cases of resistance to vaccinations exist because of the influence of religion or of traditional health practitioners but they are isolated ones, he said.

This epidemic is complicated by the fact that nearly 50 percent of children in Madagascar are malnourished.

"Malnutrition is the bed of measles," Sodjinou said.

Razafijafoa's baby weighs just 11 pounds.

"This is the case for almost all children with measles who have

come here," said Lantonirina Rasolofoniaina, a volunteer at the health center.

Simply reaching a clinic for help can be a challenge. Many people in Madagascar cannot afford to see a doctor or buy medicine, and health centers often are understaffed or have poorly qualified workers.

As a result, information about health issues can be unreliable. Some parents are not aware that vaccines are free, at least in public health centers.

Four of Erika Hantriniaina's five children have had measles. She had wrongly believed that people could not be vaccinated after nine months of age.

"It's my 6-year-old daughter who had measles first. She had a lot of fever," she said. "I called the doctor but it was Friday. He had already gone to town. I went to see another doctor who told me that my daughter had an allergy. ... This misdiagnosis was almost fatal."

The girl had diarrhea and vomiting and couldn't eat, Hantriniaina said, adding that she narrowly survived.

Measles, a highly infectious disease spread by coughing, sneezing, close contact or infected surfaces, has no specific treatment. The symptoms are treated instead.

"Vitamin A is given to children to increase their immunity. We try to reduce the fever. If there is a cough, we give antibiotics," said Boniface Maronko, sent by WHO to Madagascar to supervise efforts to contain the outbreak. If

the disease is not treated early enough, complications appear including diarrhea, bronchitis, pneumonia and convulsions.

Madagascar's Health Ministry has sent free medications to regions most affected by the epidemic. Maronko reminded heads of health centers in the Ambalavao region not to make parents pay, saying he had seen some doctors asking for money. He said he feared the medicines wouldn't be enough.

The country's capital, Antananarivo, a city of some 1.3 million, has not been spared by the epidemic.

Lalaitiana Ravanjisoa, a vegetable vendor in a poor district, grieves for her 5-month-old baby.

"I had 5 children. They all had measles," she said. "For the last, I did not go to see the doctor because I did not have money. I gave my baby the leftover medications from his big brother to bring down the fever."

For a few days she did not worry. "I felt like he was healed," she said. But one morning she noticed he had trouble breathing. Later she found his feet were cold.

Late last month the WHO started a third mass measles vaccination campaign in Madagascar with the overall goal of reaching 7.2 million children aged 6 months to 9 years.

"But immunization is not the only strategy for the response to this epidemic," said Sodjinou, the WHO epidemiologist. "We still need resources for care, monitoring and social mobilization."

WORLD

Seychelles leader goes underwater to deliver speech

By DAVID KEYTON
Associated Press

DESROCHES ISLAND, Seychelles — In a striking speech delivered from deep below the ocean's surface, the Seychelles president on Sunday made a global plea for stronger protection of the "beating blue heart of our planet."

President Danny Faure's call for action, the first-ever live speech from an underwater submersible, came from one of the many island nations threatened by global warming.

He spoke during a visit to an ambitious, British-led science expedition exploring the Indian Ocean depths. Oceans cover more than two-thirds of the world's surface but remain, for the most part, uncharted. We have better maps of Mars than we do of the ocean floor, Faure said.

"This issue is bigger than all of us, and we cannot wait for the next generation to solve it. We are running out of excuses to not take action and running out of time," the president said from a manned submersible 400 feet below the waves, on the seabed off the outer islands of the African nation.

Wearing a Seychelles T-shirt

and shorts, the president told The Associated Press after his speech that the experience was "so, so cool. What biodiversity."

It made him more determined than ever to speak out for marine protection, he said. "We just need to do what needs to be done. The scientists have spoken."

The oceans' role in regulating climate and the threats they face are underestimated by many even though, as Faure pointed out, they generate "half of the oxygen we breathe." Scientific missions are crucial in taking stock of underwater ecosystems' health.

Small island nations are among the most vulnerable to sea-level rise caused by climate change. Land erosion, dying coral reefs and the increased frequency of extreme weather events threaten their existence.

During the expedition, marine scientists from the University of Oxford have surveyed underwater life, mapped large areas of the sea floor and gone deep with manned submersibles and underwater drones.

Little is known about the watery world below depths of 98 feet, the limit to which a normal scuba diver can go. Operating down



COURTESY OF NEXTON/AP

Seychelles President Danny Faure, left, speaks from inside a submersible from the vessel Ocean Zephyr under the waters off the coast of Desroches, in the outer islands of Seychelles, on Sunday.



STEVE BARKER/AP

Faure, left, sits inside the submersible on the deck of Ocean Zephyr.

1,640 feet, the scientists were the first to explore areas of great diversity where sunlight weakens and the deep ocean begins.

By the end of the mission, researchers expect to have conducted more than 300 deployments, collected about 1,400 samples

and 16 terabytes of data and surveyed about 269,100 square feet of seabed using high-resolution, multibeam sonar equipment.

The data will be used to help the Seychelles expand its policy of protecting almost a third of its national waters by 2020.

UN: Over 120 killed in Libyan military assault

CAIRO — More than 120 people have been killed since a Libyan military commander launched an assault on the capital 10 days ago, igniting clashes with rival militias, the U.N. health agency said Sunday.

The self-styled Libyan National Army, led by Field Marshal Khalifa Hifter, launched a surprise offensive against Tripoli on April 5 and is battling rival militias loosely affiliated with a weak U.N.-backed government.

The World Health Organization said 121 people have been killed in the fighting and another 561 have been wounded. It did not specify whether they were fighters or civilians.

Sudanese protesters demand civilian rule

CAIRO — Organizers of the protests in Sudan that forced long-ruling President Omar al-Bashir from office are calling on the military to "immediately and unconditionally" hand power to a transitional civilian government that would rule for four years.

The political parties and movements behind the four months of protests said in a joint statement late Saturday that they will remain in the streets until their demands are met. They said the handover to civilian rule would be the "first step toward the fall of the regime."

The army has appointed a military council that it says will rule for two years, until elections are being organized. The council met with a delegation of protest organizers on Saturday.

Iranian who removed headscarf sentenced

TEHRAN, Iran — An Iranian woman who removed her obligatory Islamic headscarf in a public protest has been sentenced to one year in prison but pardoned by the supreme leader, her lawyer said Sunday.

Payam Derefshan told The Associated Press a court sentenced 35-year-old Mahsa Amini after finding her guilty of encouraging public "corruption." Movahed was arrested in November.

Derefshan, who first revealed the verdict to local media on Sunday, said she is on a pardon list but the release procedures are still underway.

3 killed in plane crash near Mount Everest

KATHMANDU, Nepal — A small passenger plane crashed into a parked helicopter during takeoff at the only airport in Nepal's Everest region on Sunday, killing at least three people and injuring four others, officials said.

The crash occurred while the plane, a Twin Otter belonging to Summit Air, was trying to take off from Lukla for Kathmandu on Sunday morning, said aviation official Raj Kumar Chhetri. He said the plane skidded off the runway, hitting the helicopter of Manang Air.

From The Associated Press

Shooting at Australian nightclub leaves 1 dead

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — A drive-by shooting outside a popular Melbourne nightclub in Australia early Sunday left one man dead, another critically wounded and two others injured, police said.

Police said shots were fired from a car into a crowd standing outside the two-story Love Machine club, hitting three security guards at the nightclub and

one patron. Police appealed for anyone with video footage or information to come forward. They have made no arrests so far.

Four people were taken to a hospital, two of whom were in critical condition. Police later confirmed that one man, 37, had died.

They are investigating whether a black Porsche SUV seen leaving the area is related to the shooting. The car was later found burned out.

"These things are still incredibly rare, and there's nothing to indicate at the moment that this is part of a broader agenda," said Andrew Stamper, of Victoria state police.

Love Machine host Steve Yousif posted on Facebook: "Overwhelmed with all your calls and texts, nothing but love for you all. What happened last night was uncalled for and devastating. For some of you, it was a night out, the rest of the Love Machine fam-

ily lost a beautiful soul today," he wrote.

Gun violence is rare in Australia, which strengthened its gun laws following the murders of 35 people by a lone gunman in 1996 in Tasmania.

In New Zealand, an Australian white supremacist has been charged with murder over the March 15 mosque attacks that left 50 dead, leading that nation to ban a range of semi-automatic weapons.

Bosnian Serb wrongly calls Srebrenica massacre a 'myth'

Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — A Bosnian Serb leader has wrongly called the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, in which more than 8,000 Muslim men and boys were killed by Bosnian Serb troops, "a fabricated myth."

The comments defy international court rulings that say genocide was committed in the eastern Bosnian enclave.

Both the International Court of Justice and the U.N. war crimes

court for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, Netherlands, have ruled that the killings in Srebrenica were genocide.

The Bosnian Serb wartime political and military leaders, Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, have been sentenced to life in prison for the Srebrenica genocide and other war crimes during Bosnia's 1992-95 war, which killed more than 100,000 people and made millions homeless.

But Milorad Dodik, who now heads Bosnia's multiethnic joint

presidency, has told a conference discussing war crimes during the Bosnian conflict that the Srebrenica massacre was "something that does not exist."

"[Bosnian Muslims] did not have a myth, so they decided to construct one around Srebrenica," Dodik said Friday.

Dodik has repeatedly downplayed the Srebrenica massacre, along with other Bosnian Serb politicians and authorities in neighboring Serbia who deny that genocide was committed. Bos-

nian Serbs have also announced a special commission tasked with establishing the "truth" on Srebrenica.

Dodik's comments have drawn condemnation from Muslims in Bosnia.

"Srebrenica is a court-proven fact, just as is a court-proven fact that the military and political leadership of the Bosnian Serbs have been convicted of a joint criminal enterprise and genocide," said Ramir Salikic, a Bosnian Muslim official.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man sentenced for taking mammoth tusk

AK ANCHORAGE — An Alaska man will serve nearly three years in federal prison for stealing a fossilized woolly mammoth tusk and cutting it up to sell for profit.

U.S. District Judge Sharon Gleason on Thursday sentenced Martin Elze, 52, to 33 months for the theft of the 5.5-foot tusk from a Bureau of Land Management museum in Anchorage.

Elze in December pleaded guilty to one count of removal of a paleontological resource. An accomplice, Gary Lynn Boyd, pleaded guilty in January and will be sentenced May 15.

The museum's video surveillance system recorded the theft in March 2018.

Stolen beer truck found; cargo intact

IL CALUMET CITY — In what police called a "crime of opportunity," a truck loaded with beer was stolen from a Chicago grocery store parking lot and later found abandoned with its cargo "intact."

Chicago police said the truck carrying Modelo beer was stolen Thursday morning after the driver parked it outside a South Side grocery and left the keys in the ignition.

Police spokesman Tom Ahern said police issued an alert to nearby suburbs shortly after being notified of the theft.

Ahern said police found the tractor-trailer shortly after noon, abandoned in Calumet City.

Woman with knife wound names suspect

WV WESTOVER — A West Virginia woman had a knife sticking out of the back her head when she told authorities that she was stabbed by her daughter's boyfriend.

The woman's daughter, Kizzie Hardy, told The (Morgantown, W.Va.) Dominion Post that her mother wasn't stabbed, but that her boyfriend, Zachary Nipper, threw a rack of drying dishes and the knife just got stuck.

The victim told police she was attacked while trying to stop Nipper from choking someone Thursday.

Westover Police Chief Rick Panico said Nipper is charged with malicious wounding and is wanted in Maryland for felonious assault.

Officials free owl trapped in fishing line

MO SPRINGFIELD — A snorkeler joined wildlife officials to rescue a barred owl from a fishing line tangled in trees above the James River.

Bill Hulsebus was visiting the Springfield Conservation Nature Center earlier this month when he came across the injured owl. Hulsebus told the Springfield (Mo.) News-Leader that firefighters attempted to release the owl's wing from the line, but their equipment couldn't reach.

THE CENSUS

21

The number of miles of a car chase involving three women charged in an incident at a rest stop in Dade City, Fla. Authorities said the women were applying suntan lotion in the nude and when a deputy approached, they led police on the chase, drove a car at a deputy and threatened another deputy with a bat. They've been charged with aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, resisting arrest, fleeing to elude and indecent exposure.



STEPH CHAMBERS, PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/AP

Kite dance

Brooke Logan, 8, of Hampton, Pa., dances as she flies a kite at Hartwood Acres in Hampton Township, near Pittsburgh.

He said conservation officials had fastened a tree trimmer to a long pole. A snorkeler nearby waded into the cold river and used the pole to cut the line, freeing the owl.

Volunteers took the owl to a rehabilitation center, where it was given a feather transplant to repair its damaged wing.

Groom faces trial in assault on waitress

PA DOYLESTOWN — A judge ruled that a groom can go to trial on charges he forced himself on a teenage waitress at his wedding reception.

Matthew Aimers, of Willingboro, N.J., arrived at court Thursday in Bucks County, Pa., with his new wife at his side.

The judge upheld all charges, including indecent assault, indecent exposure, imprisonment of a minor and related offenses in the November incident at the Northampton Valley Country Club in Richboro, Pa.

Aimers' attorney, Louis Busico, said his client "denies and

rejects" the accusations by the waitress, who is now 18.

An affidavit said the waitress had spurned Aimers' advances during the reception. Police alleged he sexually assaulted her in a bathroom.

Students protest locked bathrooms

MN STILLWATER — A group of high school students is protesting administrators' decision to lock some of the school bathrooms during class.

The (Minneapolis) Star Tribune reported that the Let Us Pee Instagram page was originally launched as a tongue-in-cheek response to a new policy at Stillwater High School aimed at cutting down on vaping and vandalism. The page and corresponding website have since become a rallying cry for students.

Principal Rob Clark said he didn't anticipate a strong reaction to locking six of the 14 bathrooms, which are reopened briefly between classes. He said it's common practice.

High school athlete injured by javelin

MT KALISPELL — A high school student was injured after being struck in the chest by a javelin thrown by another student-athlete during track and field practice.

The Flathead (Kalispell) Beacon reported Bigfork High School senior Anders Epperly was airlifted to a hospital Thursday with a partially collapsed lung.

Epperly's father, Jim, is a coach and said his son is recovering and was fortunate he wasn't struck in another part of his body.

Students upset by gun raffle to fund party

MD BRUNSWICK — Students at a Maryland high school are upset that a raffle for guns was used to support a party for the graduating seniors.

The Frederick News-Post reported the Safe and Sane program at Brunswick High School raffled off guns in February.

Tickets were \$20 each for prizes that included hunting rifles and shotguns.

Safe and Sane sponsors an alcohol-free party after graduation for high school seniors. Students said the decision to hold the raffle while promoting safety was counterintuitive.

Event canceled over swine fever concerns

IA DES MOINES — Concerns about the spread of Africa swine fever to the U.S. have led organizers to cancel the World Pork Expo scheduled for June at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines.

The National Pork Producers Council's board of directors announced its decision Wednesday.

The annual June event brings about 20,000 visitors to Des Moines, including people and exhibitors from regions of the world where the disease has been diagnosed and is spreading.

From wire reports

FACES



COURTESY OF OKILLY DOKILLY/The Washington Post

Okilly Dokilly calls its unique sound “Nedal,” which quickly found a dedicated following.

Meet Okilly Dokilly, the metal band inspired by Ned Flanders character on ‘The Simpsons’

By STEPHANIE WILLIAMS
The Washington Post

In the music world, heavy metal comes in many forms. There’s black metal, death metal — and even a subgenre inspired by Ned Flanders.

Yes, Ned Flanders — the ultra-religious, clean-cut character on TV’s “The Simpsons,” known for his cheery “Hi-Did-dly-He” and “Okilly Dokilly” catchphrases that are bemoaned by next-door neighbor Homer Simpson. The cheeky genre’s name is Nedal, a sound coined and — for now — solely produced by Phoenix band Okilly Dokilly.

Okilly Dokilly harnesses the abrasive sonic elements of sludge metal, akin to early Black Sabbath and Alice in Chains, but eschews doom-and-gloom lyrics in favor of quotes from the neighborhood, overly friendly Flanders. As it turns out, a “Simpsons” metal band can procure a large, dedicated fan base, and no one is more surprised than the lead singer, Head Ned.

“When we first started the band, we didn’t think we’d have much of an audience,” says Head Ned, who co-founded the quintet in 2015. But within a week after

‘One thing that I look for when finding quotes is that if Ned Flanders says something out of context, how heavy metal is it?’



Head Ned
lead singer of Okilly Dokilly

Okilly Dokilly released some demo tracks on Bandcamp that same year, the tunes garnered roughly a million streams and the band’s newly created Facebook page amassed 25,000 fans.

The concept for Okilly Dokilly started as something of a gag. Head Ned wanted to form a metal band, but under the guise of something more playful and totally divergent from the genre’s brutal trappings. The group’s latest self-release, “Howdilly Twodilly,” the follow-up to 2016 debut album

“Howdilly Doodilly,” is a testament to how this off-kilter juxtaposition comes together in a harmonious way. All of the record’s 11 songs are packed with references to and sayings from the God-loving “Simpsons” character, yet they paint Flanders in a much different light.

“One thing that I look for when finding quotes is that if Ned Flanders says something out of context, how heavy metal is it?” Head Ned says. To find quotes for the new record, Head Ned went back and watched the first 10 seasons of the long-running animated series before writing the songs.

One example is the song “When the Comet Gets Here,” a nod to a Season 6 episode in which Flanders hides in his home-made bomb shelter after learning that a comet is set to decimate Springfield. The shelter becomes overcrowded when more townsfolk discover its existence. After being nominated by Homer to leave due to overcapacity, Flanders willingly agrees to go, and tells his son Todd to “shoot Daddy if he tries to get back in.” Okilly Dokilly spun the quote in a way that makes Flanders sound much more menacing.

Complementing the music is the band’s complete dedication to looking the part. All

five members, including drummer Dread Ned, guitarist Shred Ned, bassist Bed Ned and keyboardist Zed Ned, sport Flanders’ hallmark green sweater, crisp pink polo, round glasses and, of course, his neatly trimmed mustache onstage. At shows, their fans often rise to the occasion and wear the same costume. Okilly Dokilly refers to these superfans as “Bonus Neds.”

“We did a tour in the U.K. last year, and in London we had 25 people all dressed as Ned Flanders,” Head Ned recounts. “The mosh pit was a heavy shade of green, and a bunch of the fans were having a hard time telling who was in the band and who was just a fan dressed as Ned Flanders!”

Okilly Dokilly has also caught the attention of “Simpsons” producers, who featured the band’s video for “White Wine Spritzer” during the credits of the April 7 episode. Once the band finishes the U.S. leg of its tour, Okilly Dokilly will head to the other side of the globe to win over more fans.

“We’re thinking of possibly going to Australia since there’s another ‘Simpsons’-themed band, Dr. Colossus, that we’d like to tour with,” Head Ned says. “That’s our goal — to take ‘Howdilly Twodilly’ and spread it as far as we can.”

‘The Rise of Skywalker’ is title of next Star Wars film

Associated Press

“No one is ever really gone,” says the voice of Luke Skywalker in the first teaser trailer for “Star Wars: Episode IX,” which audiences finally learned will be called “Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker” April 12 at a fan event in Chicago.

The closely guarded film from director J.J. Abrams will put an end to the Skywalker saga that began over 40 years ago, but even as characters and actors have passed on, the footage shown at Star Wars Celebration suggests that as with all Star Wars

films, death is just a technicality a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.

Mark Hamill’s Skywalker might have died at the end of the most recent installment, but his voice dominates the teaser trailer, telling someone, possibly Daisy Ridley’s Rey, that, “this is your fight now.”

Carrie Fisher’s Leia Organa also is back, despite the actress’ untimely passing in Dec. 2016, thanks to unused footage from “The Force Awakens” which Abrams was able to craft into its own narrative for this new film, which will hit theaters Dec. 20.

Other news

■ Actress **Amber Heard** asked a judge April 11 to dismiss a \$50 million defamation lawsuit her ex-husband **Johnny Depp** filed over an op-ed about domestic violence she wrote in *The Washington Post*, and provided new evidence toward her allegations of abuse. In the motion filed in the Circuit Court of Fairfax, Va., Heard describes in new detail more than a dozen instances before and during their marriage when she says Depp slapped her, shoved her, pulled

her hair or choked her. Depp has denied any such abuse.

■ **Wendy Williams** has filed for divorce after nearly 22 years of marriage to her husband and manager. Her attorney, Mary Vidas, says the papers were filed in Essex County, N.J., where the talk show diva has a home. Williams, 54, and Kevin Hunter, 46, have a 19-year-old son, Kevin Jr.

■ **Timothy Williams**, a spokesman for the discount hotel website Trivago.com, was arrested Wednesday in Texas on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

Stripes

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OPINION

Gen Z likely to temper socialist millennials

By CONOR SEN

Bloomberg News

The 2020 election will be the first one in which members of Generation Z are casting their vote for president, with candidates sure to be flocking to college campuses soliciting their votes. For now, polling suggests Gen Z, like slightly older millennials, is more receptive to socialistic ideas and branding than older generations, but don't be so sure those views will last. Unlike millennials, the members of Gen Z are entering their working years with a robust labor market. Should that persist, we may see the pendulum for young people start to swing back in the direction of capitalism.

The idea here is that people's political views are largely formed in their youth, with events occurring between ages 14 and 24 having three times as much impact as those occurring after age 40. Those experiences of youth can then shape behaviors and voting habits as people age. People who came of age during the Great Depression would carry those financial scars for the rest of their lives. Americans raised in the postwar economic boom would have a very different outlook. This also explains how economic policymakers around the world whose formative years were in the inflationary 1970s can remain inflation hawks to this day, despite weak inflationary pressures over the past decade.

And it explains how some young people can be so infatuated with politicians like Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Few people under age 35 remember

the roaring economy of the late 1990s. What they've experienced has largely been one or two of the recessions we've had over the past 20 years, the housing boom and bust, high levels of income and wealth inequality, and relatively meager wage growth.

But while the political views of current 20- and 30-somethings may be starting to harden, those of Gen Z are just starting to be formed. And to the extent we continue on the labor market trajectory we're on, it might mean Gen Z ends up with more centrist attitudes on the economy.

Consider the different experiences of a college senior in 2016 versus a student who will be a college freshman in the fall of 2020. That 21-year-old senior in 2016 was 13 when the financial crisis hit in 2008. Maybe one or both of their parents lost their jobs. Maybe they or one of their friends experienced home foreclosure. The slow recovery from that crisis likely shaped their views of the world and the economy throughout their high school and college years. It would be natural for those experiences to make someone much more progressive in their attitudes about government.

But 18-year-old freshmen in 2020 were born in 2002. By the time they were teenagers it was 2015, at which point the national unemployment rate had come back down to around 5 percent. They've spent their final two years of high school seeing "now hiring" signs in the windows of retailers, coffee shops and restaurants, and thanks to higher minimum wage laws in many places being paid up to \$15 an hour

to flip burgers or stock shelves. (Just this month, Bank of America announced a new minimum wage of \$20 an hour.) Businesses and investors are already becoming attuned to the growing buying power of Gen Z, and in the aggregate they don't have the economic scars that older generations do. Their political views should follow.

Should this come to pass, this should be considered a policy success. Extreme economic policy views when held en masse are typically a result of extreme hardship, whether that be the inflation-scarred baby boomer generation that came to distrust government, or the unemployment-scarred millennial generation interested in hearing more about a jobs guarantee or big spending programs.

This doesn't mean in the aggregate that the economic preferences of young people are likely to shift to the right overnight. Voters in their 20s and 30s are just beginning to vote in large numbers, and we're most likely going to see more legislators elected over the next few years embracing labels like socialist or democratic socialist. But to the extent that policymakers can continue to keep the labor market in a good place for several more years, enthusiasm for progressive economic policies may start to wane, and when members of Gen Z are old enough to start running for office, maybe they'll push back against what they perceive to be the extremism of millennial politicians.

Conor Sen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a portfolio manager for New River Investments in Atlanta and has been a contributor to the Atlantic and Business Insider.

Trump's narrow vision for DHS invites disaster

By JULIETTE KAYEM

Special to The Washington Post

What happens when, after 2001, you focus your entire homeland security apparatus solely to stop the next 19 terrorists from getting on four airplanes and killing thousands of Americans?

The answer, in some ways: the government's disastrous response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Katrina was a lesson in what can go wrong when the loss sight of big, complicated mission: protecting the American people. Which is why, after 2005, the Department of Homeland Security and its state and local partners began to adopt an "all hazards" approach to protecting our communities. Instead of focusing on just one threat, America would be safer if we sought to reduce the threat of all highly probable risks across the board: climate change and oil spills, terrorism and cyberattacks, pandemics and unlawful immigration. This didn't mean we should focus on anything that might go wrong; we don't need to devote dollars, for example, to prevent the 100 or so seafire-related deaths that occur each year. We just need to focus on our most probable vulnerabilities.

So over the next decade, the DHS nurtured and funded the preparedness and response capacities of our first responders so they could be ready for any, and all, vulnerabilities. The thinking was simple: Those capacities will be relevant whether the harm is caused by a terrorist, a hurricane or a cyberattack.

As President Donald Trump continues his attacks on the leaders, policies and personnel at the DHS because of his administration's failure to curb border crossings, the deeper harm to our security is his reversal of that all-hazards course correction. The DHS is once again focused on one risk at the exclusion of the others. Any



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Kirstjen Nielsen, center, attends the dedication ceremony for the Department of Homeland Security headquarters on Wednesday, her last day as secretary.

nation that puts its entire weight behind just one security challenge (and steers dollars from other security needs, such as the military) is letting other vulnerabilities go unaddressed and ignored.

There is no question that border enforcement is an essential security priority. But homeland security requires a constant balancing of risk and reward. How do you have a perfectly safe Boston Marathon? Easy: Don't have one. How do you have borders with no risk? Close them. But an absolutist approach doesn't work in a modern democracy, as the president realized when he backed away from his recent threat to close the borders.

Our homeland security is a continuing exercise in managing the safe and secure flow of people, goods, ideas and networks. "Secure flow" means both are in balance. Across our nation, everything must move: an urban transit system, a busy southern port, agricultural goods from the heartland that must reach their markets, a round-the-clock international aviation network. Movement creates vulnerabilities, but those risks are a reflection of what makes

us a vibrant nation, not a negligent one.

And while the border has come to be the lens by which we view the DHS, the irony is that borderless threats pose the greatest challenge to our homeland. These other risks — climate change, pandemics, cyberattacks and terrorism — make our homeland vulnerable because they do not have a single locus of entry. In other words, there is nothing to close to keep these threats out.

On these other all-hazards fronts, the White House's policies have ranged from negligence to denial. The president refuses to acknowledge the rise of right-wing extremism, which is a larger terrorism threat here at home than radical Islam. Trump raises skepticism about vaccinations, just when preventable measles outbreaks burden our local and state public health departments (and New York just declared a measles emergency). The president's response in Puerto Rico, and his continuing failures to support its recovery, suggest he sees no responsibility for the federal government in climate disasters. And, most significantly, Trump continues to doubt the Russian cyberattacks on our, and other nations', democratic elections.

And as if to make it clear that the White House doesn't particularly view homeland security as a priority outside the immigration and wall debate, the president has also minimized the role of his homeland security and counterterrorism adviser, downgrading the post from equal status to below national security adviser John Bolton.

Managing our homeland security, and the department with that name, are tasks both complicated and existential. They cannot be ignored away.

Juliette Kayem, a former assistant secretary at the Department of Homeland Security and former Massachusetts homeland security adviser, is faculty chairwoman of the homeland security program at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Southwest grounds Boeing jets until August

By DAVID KOENIG
Associated Press

DALLAS — Southwest Airlines customers relaxing on Thursday evening got an email that may mean their summer vacation could be more stressful and expensive than they planned.

Southwest, the biggest operator of Boeing jets, is removing the grounded 737 Max from its schedule until at least Aug. 5, well past the peak of the summer high season.

Company President Tom Nealon wrote in his email that the airline is taking the Max out of its schedule two months longer than previously planned to reduce the need for last-minute changes during the summer travel season. The decision, he wrote, would make the schedule more reliable.

Other airlines are likely to follow Southwest's example, putting pressure on Boeing to finish



MATT HARTMAN/AP

Southwest Airlines Boeing 737 Max aircraft lands at the Southern California Logistics Airport in the high desert town of Victorville, Calif., on March 23.

fixing software on an anti-stall system implicated in two deadly crashes.

Last month, Boeing and federal officials said privately that the company would finish its work before the end of March. Instead, it was delayed by an unexpected problem that Boeing hasn't fully described, and the company is

now aiming to complete its work by late April.

Boeing CEO Dennis Muilenburg said the company's pilots have flown 96 test flights totaling 160 hours with the new software and will operate more in the coming weeks to prove that the fix works.

The longer the Max planes sit

on the ground, the more money airlines lose. Southwest already figures that just the first three weeks the Max had been grounded, along with other setbacks, cut the airline's first-quarter revenue by \$150 million.

Southwest has been canceling about 90 flights a day because its 34 Max jets have been grounded since mid-March. Spokesman Chris Mainz said the new schedule eliminates about 160 daily flights to assure customers that it will operate the flights they booked.

That is 4% of Southwest's 4,000 daily flights during summer. Still, unless the airline finds replacement planes quickly — and that can be a complicated process — Southwest will scrap about 10,000 flights that could have carried nearly 1.8 million people between now and early August.

American Airlines doesn't ex-

pect its 24 Max jets to be flying before June 5, and it too is canceling about 90 flights a day.

United Airlines, with 14 Max planes, says it is shuffling its fleet and mostly covering flights that were scheduled with the Max in mind.

Without those planes, travelers will have fewer flights to choose from, and fewer planes to carry passengers whose flights are canceled for other reasons such as bad weather. There could also be fewer fare sales.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro cents (April 15)	\$1.1612
Dollar buys (April 15)	69.8612
British pound (April 15)	\$1.34
Japanese yen (April 15)	\$9.00
South Korean won (April 15)	1,012.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.3077
Canada (Dollar)	1.3334
Israel (Shekel)	284.62
China (Yuan)	6.7042
Denmark (Krone)	6.6076
Egypt (Pound)	17.3115
Euro	\$1.1296/0.8853
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8428
Hungary (Forint)	254.62
Japan (Yen)	3.5646
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3042
Norway (Krone)	8.5021
Philippines (Peso)	51.70
Poland (Zloty)	3.79
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3528
South Korea (Won)	1,134.35
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0029
Thailand (Baht)	31.78
Turkey (Lira)	2.7649

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom or nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.00
Federate reserve market rate	4.41
3-month bill	2.38
30-year bond	2.97

Report: 'Pervasive' harassment at AccuWeather

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal investigation into a company run by one of President Donald Trump's nominees to head a prominent federal agency found a "severe and pervasive" culture of sexual harassment.

The Labor Department report from January 2018 made a harsh assessment of the internal culture at AccuWeather, concluding that multiple sexual harassment claims were ignored by executives and that women who complained feared retaliation. AccuWeather's chief executive at the time, Barry Myers, has been

nominated by Trump to head the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

A redacted copy of that report from the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs has now been obtained by The Associated Press, providing previously unreported details on the extent of the company's problems.

The investigation claims that multiple sexual harassment claims — including several against a specific "high-profile male employee" — were ignored and that the company "was aware of the sexual harassment but took no action."

It also concludes that claims from the company's human resources director that they had no knowledge of the accusations are "not credible" and that several female employees say they were driven to resign.

Myers served as AccuWeather's chief executive from 2007 to January 2019. His brother Joel Myers is the company's founder and president.

His nomination to head NOAA — which oversees the National Weather Service — has advanced out of committee but has not been scheduled for a full Senate vote.

AccuWeather had already

agreed last year to pay \$290,000 as part of a settlement of the findings. The company, based in State College, Pa., provides commercial weather forecasting services and is a federal contractor.

A statement from the company says it continues "to deny the allegations and claims." But it says the company agreed to pay the fine not as an admission of guilt but to avoid wasting "time and money needlessly on protracted legal negotiations."

The AccuWeather statement said the company "continues to improve as an inclusive, empowering and respectful workplace."

WEATHER OUTLOOK

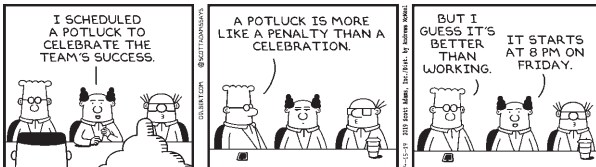


The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Frazz



Dilbert



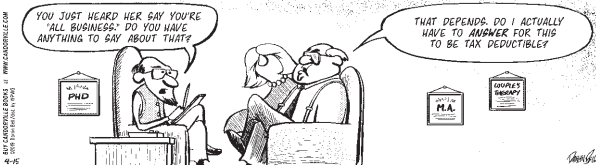
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



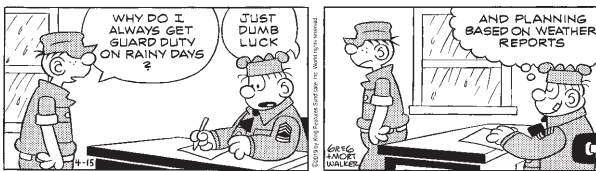
Candorville



Carpe Diem



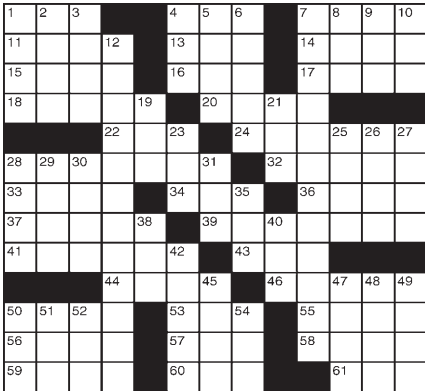
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Listening device
- 4 Iota
- 7 Bright star
- 11 Shapeless mass
- 13 Get older
- 14 Eden evictee
- 15 U2 lead singer
- 16 Air outlet
- 17 Sailor
- 18 Attempts
- 20 Judicial garb
- 22 Gaiety
- 24 "Weeping" tree
- 28 Macaroon ingredient
- 32 Wilderness
- 33 Road pioneer
- 34 Unoriginal one
- 36 Actress Arthur
- 36 Hindu royal
- 37 Gold-loving king
- 39 Country

- named for an imaginary line
- 41 Eye, slangily
- 43 Tax form ID
- 44 One of the Fab Four
- 46 Cairo's nation
- 50 Hoosegow
- 53 Perched
- 55 Slithery
- 56 Shrek, for one
- 57 Part of TNT
- 58 Dance move
- 59 Pitch

DOWN

- 1 Recedes
- 2 Oodles
- 3 Novelist Jaffe
- 4 Purse
- 5 Composer
- 6 Former quarterback Tim
- 7 Easy-to-peel citrus fruits
- 8 Poetic tribute
- 9 Moving day rental
- 10 Invoice fig.
- 12 Partake in a
- 13 Halloween game
- 19 Day light?
- 21 Clothing protector
- 23 Gist
- 25 Burden
- 26 — account (never)
- 27 Dam
- 28 Bivouac
- 29 Mayberry moppet
- 30 Give up
- 31 Golf prop
- 35 Rm. coolers
- 38 Salty expanse
- 40 Exploit
- 42 Out of practice
- 45 Zhivago's love
- 47 Bigfoot's cousin
- 48 Begged
- 49 Printing error
- 50 Scribble (down)
- 51 Past
- 52 Apr. check casher
- 54 Gratuity

Answer to Previous Puzzle



4-15

CRYPTOQUIP

KUJL'X LUO HOXL HYOKOB
HOMOYJIO LP BYFAZ KUOA
KYFLFAI LUO SFYXL MOYXFP
PS J KPYZ? BYJSL HOOY.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A DOCTOR TESTS YOUR PHYSICAL FITNESS LEVEL, I RECKON HE IS LOOKING AT THE VIGOR PICTURE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals B


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Announcements 040

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classifieds advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

- Some of the latest Scam fads are:
- Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

Automotive 140**SELLER BEWARE**

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

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SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. myafn.net

Deals

Saturday's transactions

BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Sent C Austin Wynns to Bowie (EL) for a rehab assignment.

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Options RHP Jon Edwards and OF Jordan Luplow to Columbus (IL). Recalled RHPs Code Anderson and Jeff Rodriguez from the 10-day IL.

HOUSTON ASTROS — Recalled RHP Reynold Guzman from Round Rock (PCL).

NEW YORK YANKEES — Options LHP Stephen Tarpley to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL). Reinstated LHP CC Sabathia from the 10-day IL.

TEXAS RANGERS — Placed 2B Rougned Odor on the 10-day IL, retroactive to Thursday. Selected the contract of INF OF Danny Santana from Nashville (PCL). Transferred RHP Edinson Volquez to the 10-day IL. Signed RHP David Carpenter to a minor league contract.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Options INF Richard Ureña to Buffalo (IL). Reinstated RHP Carlos Carrasco from the 10-day IL. Sent RHP Ryan Tepera to Buffalo (IL) for a rehab assignment.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
CINCINNATI REDS — Recalled OF Phillip Evlin from Round Rock (PCL).

COLORADO ROCKIES — Signed OF Craig Ogden to a minor league contract.

MIAMI MARLINS — Options OF Peter O'Brien to New Orleans (PCL). Recalled OF Austin Dean from New Orleans.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Recalled RHP Pedro Arana from Savannah (PCL).

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Sent OF Gregor Salas to the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Mike Cuddihy from the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Mike Cuddihy from the 10-day IL.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Sent RHP Luke Weaver to Springfield (TL) for a rehab assignment.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Options RHP Pedro Alcantara to San Diego (PCL). Recalled RHP Gerardo Reyes from El Paso (PCL).

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Placed RHP Justin Miller on the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Adam Lind from Fresno (PCL).

FOOTBALL
National Football League
ATLANTA FALCONS — Agreed to terms with DT Tyler Davis on a one-year contract.

TRENTON TIGERS — Signed S Charles Washington.

Major League Soccer
ORLANDO CITY SC — Signed M Cam Lindley to Memphis (USL Championship).

COLLEGE
HOFSTRA — Named head coach Santos Antón women's basketball coach.

Tennis

US Men's Clay Court Championship

Saturday
AT BOSTON, MASS.
Surface: Clay-outdoor

Seminifinals
Christian Garin, Chile, 6-2, 6-2, Sam Querrey, (8), United States, 7-6 (2), 6-2.

Final
Casper Ruud, Norway, def. Daniel Elahi Galán, Colombia, 6-3, 6-4.

Claro Open

Saturday
AT BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA
Surface: Clay-outdoor

Seminifinals
Amanda Anisimova (6), U.S., def. Beatriz Haddad Maia, Brazil, 7-6 (2), 6-2.

Final
Astra Sharma, Australia, def. Ana Carolina Barrios, Brazil, 6-3, 6-4.

Grand Prix Hassan II

Saturday
AT MARRAKESH, MOROCCO
Surface: Hard-outdoor

Seminifinals
Pablo Andújar, Spain, def. Gilles Simon (4), France, 6-1, 6-1.

Final
Gilles Simon, France, def. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, France, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Samsung Open
Saturday
AT LUGANO, SWITZERLAND
Surface: Clay-outdoor

Seminifinals
Polina Herczegh, Slovenia, def. Fiona Ferro, France, 7-5, 6-3.

Final
Iga Swiatek, Poland, def. Kristyna Pliskova, Czech Republic, 6-0, 6-1.

Pro soccer

MLS

Eastern Conference

Western Conference

DC United

Portland

Dallas FC 2

Atlanta United

New York City FC

LA Galaxy

LAFC

FC Cincinnati

US Men's Clay Court Championship

Claro Open

Grand Prix Hassan II

Samsung Open

Pro soccer

MLS

Eastern Conference

Western Conference

DC United

Portland

Dallas FC 2

Atlanta United

New York City FC

LA Galaxy

LAFC

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US Men's Clay Court Championship

Claro Open

Grand Prix Hassan II

Samsung Open

Pro soccer

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Claro Open

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Samsung Open

Pro soccer

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Western Conference

DC United

Portland

Dallas FC 2

Atlanta United

New York City FC

LA Galaxy

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FC Cincinnati

US Men's Clay Court Championship

Claro Open

Grand Prix Hassan II

Samsung Open

Pro soccer

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Dallas FC 2

Atlanta United

New York City FC

LA Galaxy

LAFC

FC Cincinnati

US Men's Clay Court Championship

Claro Open

Grand Prix Hassan II

Samsung Open

Pro soccer

MLS

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SPORTS BRIEFS/MMA

Briefly

Police: Eagles' Mills, Wiz's Robinson arrested in fight

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Philadelphia Eagles cornerback Jalen Mills and Washington Wizards forward Devin Robinson were arrested after a fight outside a nightclub, Washington police said Saturday.

Karimah Bilal, program manager for the Metropolitan Police Department's office of communications, confirmed in an email to The Associated Press that the Mills named in the police report is the Eagles player.

Both the 6-foot, 191-pound Mills and the 6-foot-8, 200-pound Robinson were charged with disorderly affray, which generally refers to fighting in a public place.

The two men were "involved in a verbal altercation which escalated into a physical altercation on the sidewalk adjacent to the Opera Night Club" in the early hours of Saturday morning, according to the police report.

Robinson was taken to a hospital for treatment, the report said. He also lost his job with the Wizards.

"We are aware of the incident this morning involving Devin and are disappointed in his actions. We will not extend him a qualifying offer for the 2019-20 season," the NBA team said in a statement.

The Eagles said in their statement they are "aware of the situation" and "continuing to gather more information." They said they will not comment further now.

Virginia fans turn out to celebrate hoops title

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Thousands of fans turned out Saturday in Charlottesville, Va., to celebrate Virginia's first national championship in basketball.

The crowd, estimated at 21,000 on the school's Twitter account, filled one side of Scott Stadium five days after the Cavaliers beat Texas Tech 85-77 in overtime to win the title.

"This is more than we expected," coach Tony Bennett said of the crowd after he and the team emerged from a tunnel to wild cheering.

Bennett compared the celebration to one for Clemson's national champion football team during a visit for a basketball game. He said he wondered if he'd ever see the same thing at Virginia.

"That day is now," he yelled, pumping his fist in the air. The Cavaliers "are part of one of the greatest stories that I've ever seen written and it will be told over and over again," he said.

Omaha Beach wins Arkansas Derby

A year after riding Justify to the Triple Crown, Mike Smith has a tough choice about which horse to ride in the Kentucky Derby. Under Smith, Omaha Beach

held off favored Improbable to win the \$1 million Arkansas Derby by a length Saturday at Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs, Ark., earning 100 points and vaulting himself into second place on the Kentucky Derby leaderboard.

After entering the day 19th in the standings with 37.5 points, the dark bay colt became one of the key contenders by winning the Grade 1 final Derby qualifier. Omaha Beach is second behind leader Tacitus in the standings that determine the 20-horse field for the Derby on May 4.

Shields wins, unifies middleweight division

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Claressa Shields tossed one championship belt around her neck, fastened another around her waist and draped one more over a shoulder.

She had about run out of room for all her titles.

At least the ones she can use as accessories. Shields staked her claim as the top middleweight in boxing and maybe even as the GWOAT — yes, the Greatest Woman Of All Time. She may not be there yet, but with more beatings like the one she put on Christina Hammer, Shields may soon earn that coveted title.

Shields used speed and power to push to the brink of a knockout as the two-time Olympic gold medalist remained undefeated with a unanimous decision over Hammer in a middleweight championship bout in Atlantic City.

Shields (9-0) held three versions of the 160-pound title and snagged Hammer's slice of the division championship to unify the belts Saturday night at Boardwalk Hall. The charismatic Shields had a few thousand fans on their feet — and A-listers roving her on from home — to give her plenty of gold to strap around her waist to go with the medals around her neck.

Pirates' Archer begins serving suspension

WASHINGTON — Pittsburgh Pirates right-hander Chris Archer dropped his appeal and began serving a five-game suspension Sunday for setting off a benches-clearing altercation on April 7.

The impact of Archer's suspension will be minimal. He ended his appeal a day after allowing one run in seven innings against Washington, getting a no-decision in Pittsburgh's loss. The Pirates have two days off this week, and Archer will make his next start April 21 against San Francisco.

He was suspended for throwing a fastball behind Cincinnati's Derek Dietrich, who had stood and watched a long home run in his previous at-bat. Archer was not among the five players ejected from the game.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ZARRILLI/AP

Kelvin Gastelum and Israel Adesanya, right, fight during a middleweight mixed martial arts bout at UFC 236 in Atlanta on Saturday. Adesanya won a unanimous decision.

Poirier, Adesanya dominate to clinch titles at UFC 236

BY CHARLES ODUM
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Dustin Poirier bloodied Max Holloway and won a unanimous decision for the UFC interim lightweight title on Saturday night, denying Holloway his chance to become only the fourth fighter to hold two belts at the same time.

Holloway, the UFC featherweight champion, moved up to the 155-pound class for the first time, attempting to gain the second belt. He also was trying to avenge his loss to Poirier in his first UFC fight in 2012.

Holloway had Poirier in trouble in the third round but couldn't overcome Poirier's relentless barrage of punches.

Holloway was bleeding heavily by the fourth round. There was so much blood on his face in the fifth and final round that it appeared he had difficulty seeing at times as he wiped his eyes.

Each judge scored the fight 49-46 for Poirier (17-4).

"This feels great," Poirier said. "I feel like I'm in a dream right now."

Holloway (20-4) had his streak of 17 consecutive wins end. He hasn't ruled out a return to the featherweight class.

"I'm not going to take nothing from Dustin," Holloway said in the octagon, looking at Poirier. "You beat a world champ and you're a world champ."

In the other headline fight of UFC 236, Israel Adesanya earned the interim middleweight title with his domination of Kelvin Gastelum in the fifth round.

Adesanya (17-0) wore the gold championship belt immediately after the unanimous decision was announced.

Gastelum (15-4) appeared to have Adesanya in trouble at times. Adesanya's corner treated a cut under his right eye after the fourth round, but the rising star from New Zealand had a decisive finish in the fifth, when Gastelum was bloodied for the first time and knocked down three times.

Gastelum was obviously groggy after being floored for the second time, and he quickly went down again. Just when it appeared the fight might



UFC President Dana White puts the championship belt on Dustin Poirier after Poirier won an interim lightweight title by defeating Max Holloway at UFC 236 in Atlanta on Saturday.

be stopped, Gastelum was saved by the final bell. Adesanya landed 135 strikes, almost twice Gastelum's total of 68.

Poirier's possible reward for his win is a chance to face undefeated Russian Khabib Nurmagomedov. The retirement of Conor McGregor, who was the sport's most popular fighter, leaves a void in UFC. McGregor held featherweight and lightweight titles but hasn't won a fight since November 2016.

Nurmagomedov said this month he would like to fight again in September, two months after the end of his Nevada State Athletic Commission ban for his team's brawl with McGregor's team following their fight in October.

"Right now I'm the champ," Poirier said.

NHL PLAYOFFS



Nick Wass/AP

Washington Capitals defenseman Brooks Orpik celebrates his game-winning goal with defenseman Christian Djoos. The Capitals took a 2-0 playoff edge with a 4-3 overtime win against the Carolina Hurricanes on Saturday in Washington.

Roundup

Caps go up 2-0 in series with OT win over Hurricanes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A rat falling out of the arena hallway ceiling during the Carolina Hurricanes' warmup game of soccer was just a precursor to a wacky afternoon of playoff hockey.

Long after the dead rodent was removed, Game 2 between the Hurricanes and Washington Capitals included a questionable ejection for a check to the head, a shot over one goalie's mask and another that went in off the other goalie's backside. It fittingly ended with an overtime goal from an unlikely source that sent the defending Stanley Cup champions into a wild celebration around the team's most popular player.

Veteran leader Brooks Orpik scored 1:48 into overtime Saturday to give Washington a 4-3 victory and a 2-0 lead over Carolina in the first-round series. His fourth goal in his 151st playoff game was his third winner, and Orpik became just the 11th defenseman in NHL history with two postseason overtime goals.

"I'm probably not counted on for too many goals, but I think if you want to have the long runs, you need everybody kind of chipping in and doing things they don't normally do," Orpik said. "Always feels good when the team comes out on top."

The Capitals came out on top thanks to Alex Ovechkin's two perfect passes, a 5-on-3 penalty kill and a stick shortage by Carolina that allowed Evgeny Kuznetsov to find Orpik for his goal. Afterward, owner Ted Leonsis quipped, "Just like it was drawn up."

There was no way to script the

strange happenings that unfolded on and off the ice. Perhaps it was an omen for things to come when the ball used in the Hurricanes' pregame soccer ritual knocked a rat down from the ceiling.

"I saw that," Carolina's Sebastian Aho said. "First time I've seen it. Kind of odd."

Bruins 4, Maple Leafs 1: Brad Marchand and Patrice Bergeron scored, Tuukka Rask stopped 30 shots and host Boston beat Toronto to tie the series at one game apiece.

Two nights after the Maple Leafs beat the Bruins 4-1 in the opener to steal away home-ice advantage, Boston dominated their Atlantic Division rivals, its 3-0 lead with a 29-16 edge in shots on goal into the third period. Charlie Coyle and Danton Heinen also scored for the Bruins.

Nazem Kadri scored Toronto's only goal midway through the third, and Frederik Andersen made 37 saves for the Leafs, who return home for Games 3 and 4 on Monday and Wednesday nights.

Avalanche 3, Flames 2 (OT): Nathan MacKinnon scored 8:27 into overtime and Colorado tied its first-round series at a game apiece with a win in Calgary.

After Philipp Grubauer stopped Michael Frolik at one end, the puck went up ice, where a pass from Mikko Rantanen sprung MacKinnon down the left wing and he fired a shot into the top corner on Mike Smith.

Matt Nieto and J.T. Compher also scored for the Avalanche. Rasmus Andersson and Sean Monahan had goals for the Flames. The series continues Monday night in Colorado.

Scoreboard

First round
(Best-of-seven; x if necessary)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Columbus 2, Tampa Bay 0
Columbus 2, Tampa Bay 3
Columbus 5, Tampa Bay 1
Sunday: at Columbus
Tuesday: at Columbus
x-Friday, April 19: at Tampa Bay
x-Sunday, April 21: at Columbus
x-Tuesday, April 23: at Tampa Bay
Toronto 1, Boston 1
Toronto 4, Boston 2
Saturday: Boston 4, Toronto 1
Monday: Boston at Toronto
Tuesday: Boston at Toronto
Friday, April 19: at Boston
x-Sunday, April 21: at Toronto
x-Tuesday, April 23: at Boston
Washington 2, Carolina 0
Washington 4, Carolina 2
Saturday: Washington 4, Carolina 3

OT
Monday: at Carolina
APRIL SPORTS, 1 a.m. EDT 8 a.m. JKT
Thursday: at Carolina
Friday, April 19: at Washington
x-Monday, April 22: at Carolina
x-Wednesday, April 24: at Washington

New York Islanders 2, Pittsburgh 0
N.Y. Islanders 3, Pittsburgh 3
OT N.Y. Islanders 3, Pittsburgh 1
Sunday: at Pittsburgh
Tuesday: at Pittsburgh
x-Thursday: at N.Y. Islanders
x-Saturday, April 20: at Pittsburgh
x-Monday, April 22: at N.Y. Islanders

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Dallas 1, Nashville 1
Dallas 3, Nashville 2
Saturday: Nashville 2, Dallas 1, OT
Monday: at Dallas
Wednesday: at Dallas
Sunday, April 22: at Nashville
x-Monday, April 24: at Nashville
St. Louis 2, Winnipeg 0

St. Louis 2, Winnipeg 3
St. Louis 4, Winnipeg 3
Sunday: at St. Louis
Tuesday: at St. Louis
x-Thursday: at Winnipeg
x-Saturday, April 20: at St. Louis
x-Monday, April 22: at Winnipeg

Calgary 1, Colorado 1
Calgary 4, Colorado 0
Colorado 3, Calgary 2, OT
Monday: at Colorado
APRIL SPORTS, 4 a.m. EDT 11 a.m. JKT
Wednesday: at Colorado
Friday, April 19: at Calgary
x-Sunday, April 21: at Colorado
x-Tuesday, April 23: at Calgary

San Jose 1, Vegas 1
San Jose 5, Vegas 2
Vegas 5, San Jose 3
Tuesday: at Vegas
Thursday: at San Jose
x-Sunday, April 21: at Vegas
x-Tuesday, April 23: at San Jose

Saturday
Predators 2, Stars 1 (OT)
Dallas 1, Nashville 0
Nashville 0, Dallas 0
1-0 0-1 0-2

First Period: 1-0, Nashville, Grimaldi 1 (Walton, Janss), 3:56
Second Period: 0-1, Nashville, Smith 1 (Ekholm, Jarrold), 5:00
Shots on Goal: Dallas 9-6-6-2-23, Nashville 16-13-8-5-42
Power-play opportunities: Dallas 0 of 6, Nashville 1 of 4
Goalies: Dallas, Bishop 1-1 (42 shots, 40 saves), Nashville, Riney 1-1 (23-22)
A-17:11 (17,113), T-3:3.



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Predators right wing Craig Smith celebrates after scoring the winning goal in a 2-1 overtime win over the Dallas Stars on Saturday in Nashville. The win ended the playoff series at one game apiece.

Predators stop Stars in overtime to pull even

BY TERESA M. WALKER

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Craig Smith scored five minutes into overtime to give the Nashville Predators a 2-1 victory over the Dallas Stars on Saturday, tying the first-round Western Conference series at 1-1.

Smith scored his first goal since posting on the outside edge of the left circle to snap a three-game playoff skid on home ice for Nashville.

Rocco Grimaldi also scored for Nashville, and Pekka Rinne made 22 saves. The Predators had lost five of their last six postseason games in the place they call Smashville.

Jamie Benn scored for Dallas. The Stars were ousted 43-23.

Game 3 is Monday night in Dallas.

The teams went to overtime twice during their five-game series during the regular season, and Dallas won the opener 3-2. So it was no surprise they went past regulation yet again.

The Stars went 0-for-6 on the man advantage after being the NHL's 11th-best on the power play during the regular season.

After losing Game 1, the Predators came into this game having lost five of their last six playoff games on home ice. The Stars came in trying to join both St. Louis and Columbus as road teams taking a 2-0 advantage back home.

The teams fought to the first scoreless period of this young series to open this game, though the Predators killed a four-minute penalty on a double minor to Mattias Ekholm and outshot Dallas 15-9.

Dallas took the lead at 1:59 of the second when Tyler Seguin got the puck off a turnover, and passed to Benn at the side of the net for the captain's first goal in this postseason. Stars center Mattias Janmark went straight to the locker room after a collision with Predators' defenseman Dan Hamhuis into the boards. Janmark was down for a couple of minutes before being helped off.

Nashville tied it at 3:56, with Grimaldi scoring over Bishop's glove from right in front off a pass from Austin Watson. It was the first postseason goal in Grimaldi's third career playoff game and first with Nashville, and he was in the lineup only because forward Brian Boyle is day to day with an illness.

The Predators also lost forward Wayne Simmonds in the first period after he took a one-timer from teammate Roman Josi off the inside of his left knee. In the third, Rinne smothered a shot from Seguin off a pass from Alexander Radulov in the opening minutes. Stars center Jason Dickinson hit the top right corner of the post 5:24 in.

Avalanche 3, Flames 2 (OT)

Colorado 0 1 1 1-3
Colorado 3, Flames 2
Second Period: 1-0, Colorado, Nieto 1 (Gibbs), 7:16 (sh), 2, Calgary, Andersson 1 (Backlund, Bennett), 12:26 (pp)
Third Period: 3-0, Calgary, Monahan 1 (Bennett, Gaudreau), 12:27, 4, Colorado, Compher 1 (Landeskog, Rantanen), 17:21
Overtime: 5-0, Colorado, MacKinnon 1 (Nolan, Cole), 8:27
Shots on Goal: Colorado 15-12-10-3-39, Calgary 10-10-10-7-37
Power-play opportunities: Colorado 0 of 4, Calgary 1 of 5
Goalies: Colorado, Grubauer 1-1 (37 shots, 35 saves), Calgary, Smith 1-1 (39-36)
A-19:29 (19,289), T-3:5.

Bruins 4, Maple Leafs 1

Toronto 0 0 1-1
Boston 2 1 1-4
First Period: 1-0, Boston, Coyle 1 (Backes), 4:44, 2, Boston, Marchand 1 (Krug, Pastrnak), 16:04
Second Period: 3-0, Boston, Heinen 1, 10:29
Third Period: 4-0, Toronto, Kadri 1 (Nylander, Dermott), 10:44, 5, Boston, Bergeron 2 (Marchand, Grzelcyk), 15:03 (pp)
Shots on Goal: Toronto 7-9-15-31, Boston 14-15-12-41
Power-play opportunities: Toronto 0 of 3; Boston 4 of 4
Goalies: Toronto, Andersen 1-1 (41 shots, 37 saves), Boston, Rask 1-1 (31-30)
A-17:56 (17,565), T-2:30.

Capitals 4, Hurricanes 3 (OT)

Carolina 1 1 0 1-3
Washington 2 1 0 1-4
First Period: 1-0, Washington, Backstrom 3 (Orlov, Ovechkin), 3:57, 2, Washington, Oshie 1 (Kuznetsov, Niskanen), 9:26, 3, Carolina, Wallmark 1 (Slavin, Fegredo), 15:54
Second Period: 4-0, Carolina, Aho 1 (Williams, Siyari), 16:49
Third Period: 5-5, Washington, Wilson 1 (Backstrom, Ovechkin), 8:55, 6, Carolina, Staal 1 (Svechnikov, Hamilton), 15:00 (pp)
Overtime: 0-0, Washington, Orpik 1 (Kuznetsov, Oshie), 1:48
Shots on Goal: Carolina 12-6-10-28, Washington 7-16-9-1-23
Power-play opportunities: Carolina 1 of 5; Washington 0 of 4
Goalies: Carolina, Mrazek 0-2 (33 shots, 28 saves), Washington, Holtby 2-0 (28-25)
A-18:06 (18,277), T-2:53.

Playoff Overtime Goals

First round
April 10 — N.Y. Islanders 4, Pittsburgh 3, Josh Bailey, 4:39
Saturday — Washington 4, Carolina 3, Brooks Orpik, 1:48
Sunday — Nashville 2, Dallas 1, Craig Smith, 5:00
Saturday — Colorado 3, Calgary 2, Nathan MacKinnon, 8:27

Playoff Score Leaders

	GP	G	A	Pts
Nicklas Backstrom, WAS	2	3	4	6
Jordan Eberle, NYI	2	2	4	4
Matt Duchene, CLS	2	1	3	4
Sam Poirier, VEG	2	2	4	4
Ericik Smith, CG	2	0	4	4

18 ties with three points.

AUTO RACING

Roundup

Truex holds off Logano for Richmond win

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Martin Truex Jr. had about 40 laps to go and Clint Bowyer closing fast.

In a race to see who could preserve their car best, Truex outlasted Bowyer and then held off a four-lap charge by Joey Logano to win the NASCAR Cup Series race at Richmond Raceway on Saturday night.

"I was struggling the last 40 laps," Truex said. "I had no front tire. I was just real, tight tight that last run. I just had to hold him off. Being out front was important tonight."

Because he did, Truex gave Joe Gibbs Racing its sixth victory in nine races this season and won for the first time in his career on tracks shorter than a mile.

"At the end of the day, we drove up to him and you get terrible tight behind people," Bowyer said.

Truex led a race-high 186 laps and regained the lead for the last time after green-flag pit stops that started with just more than 80 laps to go. With about 40 to go, Bowyer challenged with what seemed like a faster car, but Bowyer finally relinquished the second spot to Logano, who also seemed to have the faster car of the top two.

Truex expertly navigated traffic and never let him pass to win for the first time in 81 starts in the Cup series on a short track. It's his 20th career victory and 17th in the last four seasons.

"It means a lot to finally break through," Truex said in Victory Lane. "I hope it was a helluva show. It sure was fun behind the wheel."

Logano held on for second. Bowyer was third and Kevin Harvick fourth, giving Stewart-Haas Racing two top-four finishers. Local favorite Denny Hamlin was fifth.

"We were close, just not close enough," Logano said. "Ran out of time there. ... Fun race, just gosh. Three weeks in a row I felt like we had a car that could win the race and we haven't won. That's a little frustrating, but when you're frustrated with second, that's a good sign."

The stage for the finish was set when the leaderboard got shuffled beginning on Lap 318 when



STEVE HILBER/AP

Martin Truex Jr. celebrates after winning Saturday's NASCAR Cup Series race in Richmond, Va.

the cars running up front began pitting under a green flag.

When they all had new tires and enough fuel to finish, Truex was back in front, followed by Bowyer, Logano, Harvick and Hamlin. Brad Keselowski dropped to eighth during the cycle and Kyle Busch, seeking his third victory in a row on the 0.75-mile, D-shaped oval, his fourth of the season and second in a row, fell back to 10th.

Dominance: Joe Gibbs said he can't explain his team's dominant start to the season, but he's going to enjoy it while it lasts.

"Sometimes in pro sports, you know, you get on a roll, things go well," Gibbs said. "I think that's the reason why you need to enjoy it in pro sports because you know, odds are, this ain't going to keep happening."

Busted: Eight cars failed pre-race inspection, including three that failed twice. They include local favorite Denny Hamlin, a three-time winner on the 0.75-mile oval, Chase Elliott and Matt Tifft.

As a result, NASCAR disqualified their qualifying speeds, sending them to the rear of the field, disallowed their pit stall selections and ejected one engineer

from each team for the race.

Five other teams failed inspection and had their qualifying speeds and pit selections disallowed, also sending them to the back. They were seven-time series champion Jimmie Johnson, Aric Almirola, Erik Jones, Daniel Suarez and Joey Gase.

Bad luck: Larson's Kyle Larson's slow start to the season continued, giving him an early night.

Contact with Daniel Hemric early in the second stage gave Larson a tire rub and when he got back up to speed after stopping under green, the rub continued and he hit the Turn 1 wall on just the 127th lap of the night.

Larson has just two top-10 finishes in nine starts.

Hamilton, Bottas give Mercedes another 1-2

SHANGHAI — Mercedes has gone 1-2, 1-2, 1-2 in the first three races of the new Formula One season, a great start for the sport's dominating team.

Lewis Hamilton and teammate Valtteri Bottas completed their third straight double in Sunday's Chinese Grand Prix. That kind of start has not happened since 1992

when Nigel Mansell and Riccardo Patrese won 1-2 in the first three races.

"As a team, we didn't expect to have three 1-2s," Hamilton said. He acknowledged there's been some luck involved, particularly two weeks ago in Bahrain when Ferrari's Charles Leclerc should have won, but was undone by late engine trouble.

"I think we're over delivering a little bit at the moment," Hamilton said.

Sunday's race was over in the first 30 seconds.

Second on the grid, Hamilton beat pole-sitter Bottas to the first

turn and then led for the entire 56 laps. It was Hamilton's sixth victory on the Shanghai circuit. It was also the five-time and defending champion's 75th career victory, which moved him into the lead in the overall standings after three races.

The next is in two weeks in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari was third ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Leclerc.

"The start is really what made the difference," Hamilton said. "And after that it was kind of history."

The Mercedes 1-2 streak — two wins for Hamilton and one for Bottas — comes despite early hints that Ferrari had more flat-out speed.

"You can see it is still very close between us all," Hamilton said. "We have no idea how the next race is going to turn out."

Bottas acknowledged he was done in by his slow start, with Hamilton racing ahead out of the first turn.

"I think I lost it in the start, honestly," Bottas said. "It's a shame about the start. It's small details, but it's early days in the season. But we've done three perfect weekends so far."

The 21-year-old Leclerc of Monaco was upset after about 10 laps when his Ferrari team ordered him to let Vettel pass. Vettel was in fourth at the time and Leclerc was third.

"Let Sebastian by. Let Sebastian by," the team radio told Leclerc. He replied, clearly irritated: "But I'm pulling away" as he backed off and watched Vettel pass.

Scoreboard

Toyota Owners 400

Saturday
At Richmond Raceway
Richmond, Va.

(Starting position in parentheses)

1. (5) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 400.
2. (3) Joey Logano, Ford, 400.
3. (14) Clint Bowyer, Ford, 400.
4. (1) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 400.
5. (6) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 400.
6. (6) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 400.
7. (8) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 400.
8. (14) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 400.
9. (24) Ryan Newman, Ford, 400.
10. (15) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 400.
11. (2) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet, 400.
12. (34) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 400.
13. (11) William Byron, Chevrolet, 400.
14. (42) Erik Jones, Toyota, 400.
15. (32) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 400.
16. (11) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Ford, 400.

17. (12) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 399.
18. (33) Daniel Suarez, Ford, 399.
19. (17) Daniel Hemric, Chevrolet, 399.
20. (16) Ryan Preece, Chevrolet, 399.
21. (23) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 398.
22. (7) Chris Buescher, Chevrolet, 398.
23. (13) Aric Almirola, Ford, 398.
24. (20) Matt DiBenedetto, Toyota, 398.
25. (22) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 398.
26. (21) Corey LaJoie, Ford, 396.
27. (19) Bubba Wallace, Chevrolet, 396.
28. (15) David Ragan, Ford, 396.
29. (36) Matt Tifft, Ford, 395.
30. (29) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 394.
31. (27) Jeb Burton, Ford, 392.
32. (26) Bayley Currey, Chevrolet, 392.
33. (37) Joey Gase, Toyota, 387.
34. (28) Quin Houff, Chevrolet, 386.
35. (22) Landon Cassill, Chevrolet, 322.
36. (18) Michael McDowell, Ford, Accident, 240.

37. (10) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, Accident, 125.

RACE STATISTICS

Average Speed of Race Winner: 99.852 mph.

Time of Race: 3 hours, 0 minutes, 16 seconds. Margin of Victory: 0.178 seconds.

Caution Flags: 5 for 41 laps.

Lead Changes: 8 among 5 drivers.

Lap Leaders: K. Harvick 1-30; K. Busch 31-131; M. Truex Jr. 132-194; J. Logano 195-246; M. Truex Jr. 247-265; B. Keselowski 266-293; M. Truex Jr. 294-318; B. Keselowski 319-321; M. Truex Jr. 322-400.

Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Led, Laps Led): Martin Truex Jr. 4 times for 186 laps; Kyle Busch 1 time for 101 laps; Joey Logano 1 time for 52 laps; Brad Keselowski 2 times for 31 laps; Kevin Harvick 1 time for 30 laps.

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MLB

Roundup

Davis ends slump, leads Orioles past Red Sox

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Chris Davis ended his record slump at 0-for-54 and drew applause from rival fans at Fenway Park, getting three hits and driving in four runs as the Baltimore Orioles beat the Boston Red Sox 9-5 on Saturday to end a four-game losing streak.

Davis walked to the plate in the first inning to what mostly appeared to be mock cheers when he was announced. But many of those quickly changed when he lined a bases-loaded, two-run single over the head of second baseman Dustin Pedroia, ending the longest hitless streak ever by a position player. Once he safely reached first, Davis tipped his cap to the Orioles dugout and many of his teammates raised their arms and hollered in support. He smiled and made a motion that he wanted the ball, which he got.

Davis, a former two-time major league home run champion, later hit two doubles. He had been 0-for-33 this season. The all-time record for a hitless streak by any player is an 0-for-85 drought by pitcher Bob Buhl in 1962-63.

Christian Vazquez hit a two-run homer and drove in a career-best four runs for the World Series champion Red Sox, who had won their last two games.

Andrew Cashner (3-1) gave up three runs on three hits in five-plus innings. Rick Porcello (0-3) pitched into the fifth.

Yankees 4, White Sox 0: CC Sabathia began his 19th and final big league season with five stellar innings, pinch-hitter Luke Voit came through with a broken-bat RBI single in the seventh and host New York ended a four-game slide.

Sabathia allowed one hit and no other baserunners in his return from the injured list, and Domingo German (3-0) followed by striking out four in two overpowering innings.

Jose Rondon had Chicago's only hit, but the second baseman also booted a likely double-play grounder to set up Voit's hit. With the bases loaded, the Yankees' breakout slugger split his bat in two but still muscled a single to center against Ryan Burr for a 1-0 lead. Kyle Higashioka followed with a sacrifice fly to the warning track in right, and Tyler Wade brought in another run with a safety squeeze. Aaron Judge narrowly homered into the short right field porch in the eighth, his fourth of the season.

White Sox starter Ivan Nova (0-2) duelled with Sabathia, fighting four-hit ball into the seventh.

Angels 6, Cubs 5: Zack Cozart broke



MICHAEL DWYER/AP

Baltimore Orioles' Chris Davis had three hits and four RBIs to break an 0-for-54 slump in a 9-5 win at Boston on Saturday.

out of a slump with three hits and Cody Allen wiggled out of a jam in the ninth inning, helping Los Angeles win at Chicago for the Angels' seventh victory in their last eight games.

Ty Buttrey (1-0) earned his first major league win in his 23rd appearance, and Tommy La Stella reached four times against his former team. Allen struck out Daniel Descalso with two runners on in the eighth, and then closed it out for his fourth save.

Twins 4, Tigers 3: Michael Pineda labored through six innings, Eddie Rosario drove in two runs and host Minnesota edged Detroit. Byron Buxton and Jorge Polanco added RBI singles for the Twins.

Christin Stewart homered for the Tigers, who have lost three of four.

In his third start, and longest outing of the season, Pineda (2-0) allowed three earned runs and eight hits, striking out five on a 37-degree day. The righty, who had Tommy John surgery in July 2017 and did not play in 2018, has 15 strikeouts in 15 innings this season. Trevor Hillenberger and Taylor Rogers each pitched a scoreless inning, and Blake Parker got the last three outs for his third save. Detroit starter

Tyson Ross (1-2) allowed four earned runs and five hits in six innings.

Giants 5, Rockies: Madison Bumgarner pitched into the eighth inning to give a weary bullpen much needed rest and host San Francisco beat Colorado to hand the Rockies their eighth straight loss.

After outlasting Colorado 3-2 in an 18-inning game that took over 5½ hours and ended shortly before 1 a.m., the Giants came back about 12 hours later and wrapped up this win in 2 hours, 48 minutes.

Bumgarner (1-2) allowed two runs on six hits. The big lefty struck out seven, walked one and didn't allow a runner past first base until the sixth when Garrett Hampson doubled in Charlie Blackmon. Sam Dyson pitched the ninth for his first save.

Blue Jays 3, Rays 1: Lourdes Gurriel Jr. hit a two-run double in the seventh inning to help Toronto overcome reigning AL Cy Young winner Blake Snell's no-hit bid in a win over Tampa Bay, snapping the Rays' five-game winning streak.

Snell didn't allow a hit until Luke Maile singled with one out in the sixth.

Nationals 3, Pirates 2: Adam Eaton and Howie Kendrick homered on consecutive pitches in the eighth inning and host Wash-

ington rallied past Pittsburgh.

After Richard Rodriguez (0-1) retired the first two batters in the eighth, Eaton tied it with his first home run of the season. Kendrick then connected for his second.

Marlins 10, Phillies 3: Newcomer Austin Dean had four hits and five RBIs, both career highs, to help host Miami break a five-game losing streak.

Dean hit his first major league homer and also drove in two runs with his first career triple to complete a 4-for-4 night. The performance came in the outfielder's second game since being recalled from Triple-A to make his season debut with the Marlins.

Reds 5, Cardinals 2: Derek Dietrich hit a tiebreaking homer off Adam Wainwright in the seventh inning and added a two-run triple as Cincinnati won its fourth straight game, beating St. Louis in the raucous Estadio de Beisbol de Monterrey in Monterrey, Mexico.

Royals 3, Indians 0: Homer Bailey (1-1) pitched seven innings of two-hit ball and host Kansas City won its second straight after a 10-game skid.

Ian Kennedy pitched a perfect eighth and Willy Peralta followed in the ninth for his first save to complete the two-hitter.

Braves 11, Mets 7: Freddie Freeman hit a go-ahead RBI single in the second inning, Ronald Acuna Jr. had his fifth straight multihit game and host Atlanta snapped New York's three-game winning streak.

Danby Swanson drove in three runs, while Acuna, Nick Markakis and Johan Camargo each drove two RBIs. Josh Donaldson went 2-for-3 and hit his first homer with the Braves in the seventh.

Padres 5, Diamondbacks 4: Fernando Tatis Jr. hit a two-run homer and Franchi Reyes had a tiebreaking solo shot at Arizona to lift San Diego to its fourth straight win. Tatis' two-run homer, the rookie shortstop's fourth of the season, off Merrill Kelly gave the Padres a 4-0 lead in the third inning. Reyes' go-ahead shot in the seventh pushed the Padres to the win after Arizona tied it with four runs in the sixth.

Brewers 4, Dodgers 1: Mike Moustakas and Orlando Arcia homered, and Milwaukee sent host Los Angeles to its sixth straight loss.

The Dodgers didn't have a hit after Alex Verdugo's leadoff single in the fifth inning. Brewers pitchers retired the final 14 batters. Milwaukee turned three double plays behind Zach Davies (2-0), who allowed one run and eight hits in seven innings, struck out six and walked none. Junior Guerra earned his first save.

Verlander fans 11, Altuve homers again in Astros' win

By TIM BOOTH

Associated Press

SEATTLE — At this rate, Jose Altuve is going to find himself invited to participate in the home run derby — no matter what he claims.

"I'm not the power hitter we all see right now, but I'll take it," Altuve said. "If I keep hitting homers to help my team, I'll be happy."

Altuve homered for the fifth straight game, Justin Verlander struck out eight of the first 10 batters faced and finished with a season-high 11, and the Houston

Astros won their eighth straight, defeating the Seattle Mariners 3-1 on Saturday night.

Altuve homered for the sixth time in the past five games with a solo shot off Seattle starter Felix Hernandez (1-1) in the fifth inning. Altuve is the first Astros hitter to homer in five straight games since Morgan Ensberg set a franchise record with six straight in 2006.

"Pretty remarkable, just the contact he's getting and the strength," Houston manager A.J. Hinch said. "He's carrying us in a lot of ways. Big home runs.

In close games, big at-bats like that matter and he continues to impress."

Robinson Chirinos also homered as Houston handed Seattle consecutive losses for the first time this season.

"I made two mistakes, two homers. You can't make a mistake against the Astros. Facing Verlander you can't make any mistakes," Hernandez said.

While the homers were important, Verlander (2-0) was the reason why the Astros kept rolling.

Verlander was overpowering early and didn't allow a baser-

unner until Mitch Haniger's solo home run with one out in the fourth inning. Haniger's homer extended Seattle's MLB-record streak of 17 games with a home run to begin a season. Seattle has 38 homers in 17 games, but was held to a season low in runs. It was just the third time Seattle was held to less than six runs.

Daniel Vogelbach singled leading off the fifth, but that was it for baserunners allowed. Verlander walked none and only a rising pitch count equated an end to his evening. Still, he had plenty left in the later innings, hitting 98 mph

with his fastball in the sixth inning and his pitch count nearing the century mark.

Verlander had allowed seven earned runs total in his previous two starts, but made a few mechanical adjustments after looking at old video and got the results he wanted.

"I was messing around a lot in the locker room yesterday with some old mechanics and pretty much from the jump today when I started throwing I knew it was the right thing," Verlander said. "It felt good and it carried over into the game."

NBA PLAYOFFS



CHRIS SZAGOLA/AP

Brooklyn Nets guard D'Angelo Russell, left, goes up for the shot against the 76ers during the second half of Game 1 of their first-round playoff series on Saturday in Philadelphia. The Nets won 111-102.

Roundup

Nets, Magic, Spurs win playoff openers on road

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — D'Angelo Russell rang up a scoring burst that helped Brooklyn dial up an upset and filled Philly's home court with a barrage of boos.

All-Star Ben Simmons wants to put the fans on mute — and the Sixers could stand to silence their caliphones.

"If you're going to boo, then stay on that side," Simmons said. Russell flashed some post-season magic, playing like the All-Star leader Brooklyn needed with 26 points, and Caris LeVert scored 23 to lead the Nets to an impressive 111-102 win Saturday over the 76ers in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference first-round playoff series.

"We've got the right pieces to keep it going," Russell said.

A Nets team that got hot late just to make the playoffs has the upper hand on the road over a 51-win team stocked with stars.

Russell, LeVert and Spencer Dinwiddie gave the Sixers fits off the dribble, buried open looks from three-point range (11-for-26) and smoked a Sixers team that resembled one straight out of the early Process era.

The 76ers might want to keep their phones on lock.

The Sixers' Amir Johnson was caught by TV cameras sitting on the bench and scrolling through his phone late in the fourth quarter, and the Sixers down a big Johnson showed All-Star Joel



FRANK GUNN/AP

Orlando Magic center Nikola Vucetic, right, works against Raptors center Serge Ibaka defends during Game 1 in Toronto on Saturday.

Embiid whatever message was on the phone and then slid it into his warmup pants pocket. Embiid said Johnson received an update on a sick daughter. Sixers coach Brett Brown called Johnson's actions "completely unacceptable."

Magic 104, Raptors 101: D.J. Augustin scored 25 points, including the tiebreaking three-pointer with 3.5 seconds left, and Orlando beat host Toronto in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference series.

Kawhi Leonard got a final shot for Toronto, but missed the rim with his three-pointer from the top. The Raptors are 2-14 in playoff openers.

Spurs 101, Nuggets 96:

DeMar DeRozan scored 18 points and Derrick White had a key steal in the closing seconds in San Antonio's victory over host Denver in Game 1 of their playoff series.

White stole the ball at midcourt from Jamal Murray with 1.3 seconds left after LaMarcus Aldridge sank a pair of free throws following his key defensive rebound of Murray's errant shot that works gave the Nuggets a 98-97 lead with seven seconds left.

Warriors 121, Clippers 104: Stephen Curry scored 38 points and made eight three-pointers to give him the most in postseason history, and Golden State began its quest for a three-peat by running away from visiting Los Angeles.

Scoreboard

Playoffs

FIRST ROUND
(Best-of-seven; all necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Milwaukee vs. Detroit

Sunday: at Milwaukee

Wednesday: at Milwaukee

Saturday: at Detroit

Monday: at Detroit

Wednesday, April 24: at Milwaukee

Friday, April 26: at Milwaukee

Sunday, April 28: at Milwaukee

Orlando 1, Toronto 0

Tuesday: at Toronto

Friday: at Orlando

Sunday: at Orlando

Thursday, April 23: at Toronto

Thursday, April 24: at Toronto

Saturday, April 27: at Toronto

Brooklyn 1, Philadelphia 0

Saturday: Brooklyn 111, Philadelphia 102

Monday: at Philadelphia

AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. Tuesday CET; 9 a.m. Tuesday JKT

Thursday: at Brooklyn

Saturday, April 26: at Brooklyn

Tuesday, April 23: at Philadelphia

Thursday, April 24: at Philadelphia

Saturday, April 27: at Philadelphia

Boston vs. Indiana

Sunday: at Boston

Wednesday: at Boston

Friday: at Indiana

Sunday, April 21: at Indiana

Wednesday, April 24: at Boston

Friday, April 26: at Indiana

Sunday, April 28: at Indiana

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Golden State 1, L.A. Clippers 0

Sunday: Golden State 121, Los Angeles 104

Monday: at Golden State

AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m. Tuesday CET; 11:30 a.m. Tuesday JKT

Thursday: at L.A. Clippers

Sunday, April 28: at L.A. Clippers

San Antonio 1, Denver 0

Thursday, April 24: at Golden State

Friday, April 26: at L.A. Clippers

Saturday, April 27: at Golden State

Tuesday: at Denver

Thursday: at San Antonio

Sunday, April 28: at San Antonio

Thursday, April 23: at Denver

Friday, April 26: at San Antonio

Saturday, April 27: at Denver

Portland vs. Oklahoma City

Sunday: at Portland

Tuesday: at Portland

Friday: at Oklahoma City

Sunday: Oklahoma City

Tuesday, April 23: at Portland

Thursday, April 25: at Oklahoma City

Saturday, April 27: at Portland

Houston vs. Utah

Sunday: at Houston

Wednesday: at Houston

Thursday: at Utah

Monday: at Utah

Wednesday, April 24: at Houston

Friday, April 26: at Utah

Saturday, April 27: at Houston

Saturday

Golden State

36 31 23-12

Three-Point Goals—L.A. Clippers 11-26

LeVert 3-3, Harris 3-4, Dinwiddie 2-5

Rebounds—L.A. Clippers 33, Golden State 25

Assists—Brooklyn 15 (Russell), Dudley 4, Philadelphia 29 (Harris)

6, Total Fouls—Brooklyn 27, Philadelphia 24

Technical—Embiid, A—20-43 (20-47)

Warriors 121, Clippers 104

L.A. CLIPPERS Gilgeous-Alexander

6-16 3-4 18, Gallinari 4-14 4-4 15, Zubac

0-2 0-0 8, Beverley 1-6 0-3 3, Shamet 1-6

0-3 1-3, Green 4-9 0-0 10, Chandler 0-1-2

2, Harrell 11-15 4-8 26, Robinson 0-0-0 0

Williams 11-21 2-25, Thornell 0-0-0 0

0-0 0-0 0, Wallace 0-1-2 2, Totals 38-61

17-22 10

GOLDEN STATE — Durant 8-16 6-6 23,

Green 7-12 1-17, Cousins 4-12 0-9,

Curry 11-16 8-9 38, Thompson 5-14 1-12

McKinzie 1-2 0-3, Jerbeck 0-0-0 0

Bell 0-1 0-0 0, Looney 3-4 0-6 8, Bogut 1-1

3-3, Cook 1-4 0-0 2, Livingston 0-2 0-0

1, Igoudala 4-7 0-2 8, Totals 45-91 17-20

121

L. Clippers 27 29 23-15-104

Golden State 36 31 23-12-121

Three-Point Goals—L.A. Clippers 11-26

Gallinari 3-6, Gilgeous-Alexander 3-3

Green 2-5, Williams 1-2, Beverley 1-4

Shamet 1-4, Chandler 0-1, Temple 0-2

Golden State 14-30 7-30 8-12, Green

2-4, McKinzie 1-1, Durant 1-2, Cousins

4-9, Golden State 16, Igoudala 0-1, Cook 0-1

1, Fouled Out—Cousins, Rebounds—L.A.

Clippers 40 (Gallinari 8), Golden State

23 (Curry 15), Assists—L.A. Clippers 23

(Williams 9), Golden State 31 (Curry,

Green 7), Total Fouls—L.A. Clippers 23,

Golden State 22, Technicals—Gallinari,

Clippers 10, Golden State 10

2, Durant 2, Ejected—Beverly, Durant,

A—15-56 (15-56).

Spurs 101, Nuggets 96

SAN ANTONIO DeRozan 6-17 6-8

18, Aldridge 6-10 3-15, Powell 5-0 0-6,

White 7-10 2-3 16, Forbes 6-9 0-15, Gay

6-9 0-0 15, Bertan 1-5, Mills 0-0 0-4,

4, Belinelli 3-9 1-2 8, Walker 1-0 0-0 0

10, 40-103 16-20 101

DENVER — Barton 6-15 2-4 15, Millsap

4-9 3-12, Jokic 4-9 2-2 10, Murray 6-24

1-17, Harris 7-12 5-20, Craig 2-0 2-5,

Plumlee 2-4 0-2 4, Morris 1-6 0-2, Beas-

ley 5-5 1-5 10, Totals 40-83 16-20 101

San Antonio 25 34 13 29-101

Denver 20 31 22 28-96

Three-Point Goals—San Antonio 7-15

(Forbes 3-4, Gay 2-3, Bertans 1-2, Bell-

neil 1-4, Aldridge 0-1), Powell 0-1, Green

6-28 (Craig 2-3, Beasley 1-2, Harris 1-3,

Millsap 4-9, Barton 1-5, Morris 0-1, Jokic

0-3, Murray 0-9), Fouled Out—None, Re-

bounds—San Antonio 47 (DeRozan 12),

Denver 46 (Jokic 14), Assists—San An-

tonio 20 (DeRozan 6), Denver 25 (Jokic 14),

Total Fouls—San Antonio 17, Denver 18,

A—15-520 (15-520).

Nets 111, 76ers 102

BROOKLYN — Carroll 3-10 4-4 11, Ku-

ruksa 0-0 0-0, Allen 1-4 0-0 2, Russell 10-

25 4-5 26, Harris 5-7 0-0 13, Dudley 9-2

4-4, Graham 0-1 2-2 2, Davis 5-12 2-22,

Dinwiddie 6-14 4-15 18, LeVert 8-18 4-4 23,

Totals 38-68 24-26 111

PHILADELPHIA — Butler 11-22 1-13

35, Embiid 2-7 0-0 4, Eniemi 5-15 1-12 18

22, B.Simmons 4-9 1-5 9, Redick 2-7 0-30

0-0, Scott 1-9 0-0 8, Foulad 2-0 0-0 0

Janovic 5-4 1-3, McConnell 2-4 0-0 4,

Smith 0-0 0-0 0, Simmons 2-5 0-4 0, To-

als 35-86 22-42 102

Brooklyn 31 31 11-18-111

Philadelphia 22 32 28-26-102

Three-Point Goals—Brooklyn 11-26

(LeVert 3-3, Harris 3-4, Dinwiddie 2-5)

Butler 0-2, Philadelphia 3-25 (Butler

0-2, Embiid 1-5, Redick 1-5, Golden 0-1,

Simmons 0-2, Harris 0-2, Embiid 0-5),

Fouled Out—Redick, Rebounds—Brook-

lyn 45 (Davis 10), Philadelphia 20 (Em-

biid 15), Assists—Brooklyn 15 (Russell,

Dudley 4), Philadelphia 29 (Harris 6,

Total Fouls—Brooklyn 27, Philadel-

phia 24, Technicals—Embiid, A—20-43

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0-3 1-3, Green 4-9 0-0 10, Chandler 0-1-2

2, Harrell 11-15 4-8 26, Robinson 0-0-0 0

Williams 11-21 2-25, Thornell 0-0-0 0

0-0 0-0 0, Wallace 0-1-2 2, Totals 38-61

17-22 10

GOLDEN STATE — Durant 8-16 6-6 23,

Green 7-12 1-17, Cousins 4-12 0-9,

Curry 11-16 8-9 38, Thompson 5-14 1-12

McKinzie 1-2 0-3, Jerbeck 0-0-0 0

Bell 0-1 0-0 0, Looney 3-4 0-6 8, Bogut 1-1

3-3, Cook 1-4 0-0 2, Livingston 0-2 0-0

1, Igoudala 4-7 0-2 8, Totals 45-91 17-20

121

L. Clippers 27 29 23-15-104

Golden State 36 31 23-12-121

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(Williams 9), Golden State 31 (Curry,

Green 7), Total Fouls—L.A. Clippers 23,

Golden State 22, Technicals—Gallinari,

Clippers 10, Golden State 10

2, Durant 2, Ejected—Beverly, Durant,

A—15-56 (15-56).

Calendar

May 14 — Draft lottery, Chicago.

May 14-19 — Draft combine, Chicago.

NBA/MASTERS

Source: Walton to be Kings coach

By JANIE MCCAULEY
Associated Press

Luke Walton will become coach of the Sacramento Kings, securing another NBA head coaching job just a day after parting ways with the Los Angeles Lakers following three losing seasons.

The 39-year-old Walton was dismissed by the Lakers on Friday after Los Angeles went 37-45. His move to the Kings was confirmed to The Associated Press on Saturday by a person who spoke on condition of anonymity because it hadn't been finalized. A formal announcement from the Kings is expected in the next couple of days.

Sacramento general manager Vlade Divac fired Dave Joergel on Thursday after the coach helped develop the young Kings into playoff contenders before ultimately falling short in the franchise's 13th straight losing season.

Also Thursday, the Kings extended Divac's contract through the 2022-23 season — and Walton's deal is expected to run those same four years.

Sacramento features several talented young players acquired by Divac: guards De'Aaron Fox and Buddy Hield, forward Marvin Bagley III and center Willie Cauley-Stein. The Kings finished 39-43, nine games out of a playoff spot after being tied for the

Western Conference's eighth seed heading into the final game before the All-Star break.

Sacramento had its most wins since going 44-38 in 2005-06 during coach Rick Adelman's final season. That ended a run of eight straight playoff berths and Sacramento hasn't been back to the postseason since for the NBA's longest active drought.

Walton, a former Lakers forward, went 98-148 after getting his first permanent head coaching job with the 16-time NBA champions. The former Golden State top assistant never led the Lakers to the playoffs, not even after the arrival of LeBron James last summer.

He certainly has coached some of the game's biggest stars and egos.

Many considered him the unofficial Coach of the Year for his guidance of the then-champion Warriors at the start of the 2015-16 season in place of an ailing Steve Kerr. Golden State began with a record 24-0 start and Walton was 39-4 overall before Kerr returned to the bench following complications from a pair of back surgeries.

Walton's departure came three days after the Lakers finished with a loss Tuesday to the Trail Blazers and the abrupt resignation of team president Magic Johnson.



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Tiger Woods reacts as he wins the Masters on Sunday in Augusta, Ga.

Tiger wins 15th major

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — The comeback is complete. Tiger Woods has his fifth Masters title.

The 43-year-old Woods shot a 2-under 70 for one-stroke victory Sunday and his 15th major championship. But it was his first since the 2008 U.S. Open, capping a remarkable recovery from debilitating injuries and embarrassing personal problems.

Woods showed he still had the game to compete with the world's best when he triumphed in last year's Tour Championship, his first victory of any kind since

2013. Now, he's back on top with his first green jacket at Augusta National since 2005.

In a final round that was played in threesomes off both tees to stay ahead of approaching thunderstorms, Woods grabbed the outright lead for the first time with a two-putt birdie at No. 15.

Then, with Olympic champion Michael Phelps standing behind him on the tee at the par-3 16th, Woods wrapped things up by sticking an 8-iron within 2 feet of the cup for another birdie and a two-stroke lead.

Francesco Molinari began the

day with a two-shot advantage over Woods and Tony Finau. But the Italian self-destructed on the back side, dunking two balls in the water on the way to double-bogeys at the 12th and 15th holes.

This is the first time Woods has ever come from behind on the final day to win a major championship, leaving him three behind Jack Nicklaus' record of 18 major titles.

Woods made back-to-back birdies on 15 and 16 to take the two-shot advantage over Dustin Johnson, Xander Schauffele and Brooks Koepka.



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Former Los Angeles Lakers head coach Luke Walton will become coach of the Sacramento Kings, a person with direct knowledge of the agreement said Saturday. Walton made the move just a day after parting ways with the Lakers following three losing seasons. The Kings fired Dave Joergel on Thursday.

Past: Villanueva credits SHAPE for career

FROM BACK PAGE

himself in a military environment. "For me, being able to come back to the military installation obviously does a lot of good for my psyche," Villanueva said. "Being able to stay involved and stay close to the military community."

The two-day youth camp was the centerpiece of Villanueva's USO-sponsored visit to the Kaiserlautern Military Community, a three-day tour that also included appearances and autograph signings at area commissaries and the Ramstein base exchange.

"This is a world-class event for the community," said Brig. Gen. Mark R. August, commander of the 86th Airlift Wing, who introduced Villanueva prior to Saturday's start of the camp. "I think it hits the parents straight in the heart that, hey, this guy grew up as a military kid."

"To have him be a part of this... That's the sort of role model that these kids can look up to."

Villanueva's path to NFL All-Pro status has beginnings that should be very encouraging to anyone who has played or parented a player at a DODGE school.

Given the generally lower standard of competition and limited opportunities to play in front of

scouts and college coaches when compared to stateside sports, playing football overseas is often perceived to be a hindrance to the aspirations of young football prospects.

But that was not Villanueva's experience.

Villanueva attended high school at SHAPE in Belgium, a small school that was happy to offer an abundance of varsity snaps to a young athlete with unrefined skills but plenty of size, potential and work ethic. Villanueva might have never become a Steeler without first being a Spartan.

"I don't think I would have been able to play football had I gone to a regular high school in the United States," Villanueva said. "I was able to play a lot of time. So football became something really fun. If I had been someone playing JV in the United States, or maybe not really seeing the field a lot, it may have been something that didn't interest me."

"I fell in love with the idea of playing sports."

This weekend, Villanueva shared that love with an exuberant group of young athletes.

Villanueva and a squadron of volunteer coaches and coordinators ran the event's 200 campers

through a variety of drills, ranging from footwork to blocking to passing and catching, as well as some light two-hand touch scrimmages. The 6-foot-9 Villanueva, towering over the kids, was a gregarious presence, running drills alongside the campers, encouraging the kids to exhibit their touchdown dances and gently teasing young fans of rival NFL teams.

Not even unseasonably cold temperatures and a few early flurries on Saturday could dampen spirits; Villanueva, wearing Steelers shorts and ankle socks on Saturday, smiled at what he called the "AFC North football weather," referring to the chilly NFL division his team shares with the Baltimore Ravens, Cincinnati Bengals and Cleveland Browns.

Villanueva recalled his own youthful encounter with star wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald at a camp during his high school days at SHAPE, years before he shared an NFL gridiron with Fitzgerald, and expressed his wish to have a similar impact now that he's in that same prominent position.

"I always thought that the impression that you make, maybe on one kid out of 200, can change someone's life," Villanueva said.

TIGER TRIUMPHS SPORTS



Woods wins Masters for his first major championship in 11 years:

■ 43-year-old caps remarkable recovery with first come-from-behind win in major

Page 31

FOOTBALL

Back in his element



PHOTO BY BRIAN FERGUSON/Stars and Stripes

Steelers' Villanueva reconnects with past at Kaiserslautern youth camp

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

THE FIRST LINE of Alejandro Villanueva's resume — Pro Bowl lineman for the NFL's Pittsburgh Steelers — is enough to draw attention.

But it's the rest of Villanueva's remarkable life story that made him the ideal figure to stand in front of the 200 kids who attended his youth football camp Saturday and Sunday at Kaiserslautern High School.

Villanueva is a proud military kid himself, growing up on bases around the world in a life-

style very familiar to the families in attendance at the camp. He's also a graduate of West Point, where he suited up for the Black Knights, and a decorated Army veteran with three tours in Afghanistan. Now a star NFL player, Villanueva relishes the opportunity to again immerse

SEE PAST ON PAGE 31

'For me, being able to come back to a military installation obviously does a lot of good for my psyche.'

Alejandro Villanueva

Pittsburgh Steelers lineman and former DODDS high school player for the SHAPE Spartans (pictured above)

Walton set to take over as coach of Kings » NBA, Page 31

